

CONVERSACIONES EN INGLÉS 3



Vaughan

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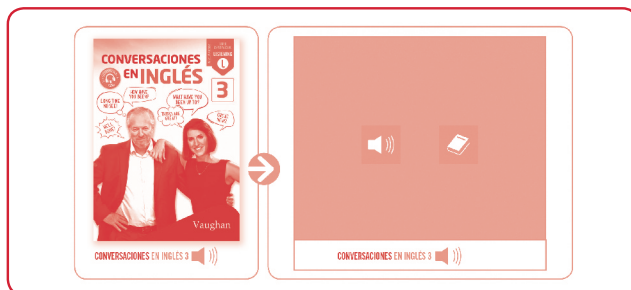
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Introducción

Este libro ha sido diseñado con una principal finalidad: ayudarte a mejorar tu **comprensión auditiva** del inglés. Entender a tu interlocutor es imprescindible para poderte comunicar, pero además hay que hacerlo a la primera y es aquí cuando se complica todo. No puedes esperar que te repitan, te hablen más lento o pongan más ceño en la vocalización; el inglés se aprende entrando de lleno en situaciones y conversaciones reales que sacan a la luz el idioma conforme a como se habla en la calle. Donde perderse una frase determina si podrás o no contestar con coherencia y donde entender prácticamente todo es esencial para ser **comunicativamente eficaz en inglés**.

En este libro vas a encontrar **120 temas** diferentes en los que se reproducen conversaciones reales en inglés. Te invitamos a que primero escuches la pista de audio con ruido de fondo ya que tienes un nivel avanzado, y luego intentes contestar correctamente a las preguntas presentadas. Si no has entendido al menos el 90% del audio, pasa a la pista sin ruido de fondo. Si todavía tienes problemas, lee el texto y vuelve de nuevo a las preguntas. Si te cuesta mucho entender incluso las pistas sin ruido de fondo, quizá deberías plantearte empezar el libro de nivel intermedio.

En cada uno de los **120 temas** encontrarás una conversación, una pista de audio descargable, preguntas asociadas para comprobar tu comprensión auditiva y una selección de vocabulario clave y expresiones para enriquecer tu inglés. Todo ello te preparará para que tu oído empiece a captar todos los matices del inglés.

Sin duda será un trabajo duro, pero si te mantienes hasta el final, tu comprensión auditiva crecerá enormemente.



THE AWFUL JACKET

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



- Ant:** Why on earth did you buy that awful jacket, Nat? It looks like something you'd pick up at a **flea market** for a dollar.
- Nat:** What are you on about, Ant? This jacket cost me **an arm and a leg**.
- Ant:** But it looks like the arms are about to fall off. In fact, the whole thing looks like it's gonna come apart at any minute.
- Nat:** What? This jacket has been crafted by London's finest tailors. The worn look is **all the rage**, you know.
- Ant:** I still can't believe you bought a jacket with pieces of **thread** hanging off it! Doesn't it make you want to get hold of the nearest pair of scissors and give it a good trim?
- Nat:** I think I can resist the temptation!
- Ant:** You're off your horse!
- Nat:** Well, your jacket is hardly haute couture, is it? Has it ever been in fashion?
- Ant:** That doesn't really worry me, to be honest. What's more, I'm sure it cost a fraction of the price of yours.
- Nat:** What colour is it? Beige-yellow? Yellowish-beige?
- Ant:** What's in a colour? I like it, even if it is a strange colour.
- Nat:** I'd call it buff.
- Ant:** Call it buff then. All I know is that it's comfy and warm... and it didn't cost me the earth. What else can you ask from a jacket?
- Nat:** For it to be remotely stylish?
- Ant:** If by stylish you mean "looks like it's about to fall apart", I think I'll stick to my unfashionable buff jacket.
- Nat:** On your back be it!

PISTA 01A RUIDO DE FONDO

¡La única complicación es que están manteniendo esta conversación a 4.000 pies de altura a bordo de una avioneta cuando ambos están a punto de saltar al vacío!

PISTA 01B

Si no entiendes bien con tanto ruido de fondo, también te damos la oportunidad de escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

flea marketrastro
an arm and a legun ojo de la cara
all the rageel último grito
threadhilo



TEMA: THE AWFUL JACKET

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



QUESTIONS:

- 1) Is Ant impressed with Nat's jacket?

- 2) Where does Ant think it looks like Nat bought the jacket?

- 3) Was it dear according to Nat?

- 4) What looks like it's about to fall off the jacket according to Ant?

- 5) How does Nat describe the look of the jacket?

- 6) What would Ant like to do to the thread hanging off Nat's jacket?

- 7) Does *"to be off one's horse"* mean *"to be angry"*?

- 8) What's Nat's opinion of Ant's jacket?

- 9) Does Nat's opinion bother Ant?

- 10) What color does Nat describe Ant's jacket as being?

- 11) What are the most important prerequisites for a good jacket according to Ant?

- 12) What further prerequisite does Nat mention?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 248]







THE NEW GIRLFRIEND

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

Joe: I can't believe that you're going all the way to Australia to meet a girl you **barely** know!

Adam: But we've been going out for over a month! We've got a real thing going on.

Joe: Listen, "going out" means just that: going out on dates, going to the cinema... seeing each other. It doesn't mean "chatting on the Internet".

Adam: Well, I feel I know Amy better than anyone else in the world.

Joe: I bet you don't know whether she has **bad breath** or not.

Adam: That doesn't bother me.

Joe: You say that now...!

Adam: Look, I'm going to Australia, full stop. It's no good trying to talk me out of it.

Joe: Alright, alright. When are you off, then?

Adam: Tomorrow, first thing.

Joe: Have you started packing yet?

Adam: I'll do that when I get home.

Joe: You'd better **get a move on**, then; it's getting late.

Adam: That's true. I really must **scoot**!

Joe: Don't forget to pack some mouthwash, just in case!

Adam: Very funny!



PISTA 02A RUIDO DE FONDO

¡La única complicación es que están manteniendo esta conversación durante un fuerte huracán!

PISTA 02B

Si no entiendes bien con tanto ruido de fondo, también te damos la oportunidad de escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>barely</i>	apenas
<i>bad breath</i>	mal aliento
<i>to get a move on</i>	darse prisa
<i>to scoot</i>	irse



TEMA: THE NEW GIRLFRIEND

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



QUESTIONS:

- 1) Does Joe think that Adam should get to know his girlfriend better before going to visit her?

- 2) Why do you think Joe is against Adam's plan to visit his girlfriend?

- 3) How long have they been an item?

- 4) Why does Joe think that the expression "going out" is inappropriate?

- 5) How well does Adam feel he knows Amy?

- 6) What is Joe sure that Adam doesn't know about Amy?

- 7) Does this worry Adam?

- 8) Is Adam taking a late flight tomorrow?

- 9) When is the flight?

- 10) What has Adam still got to do before he leaves?

- 11) When will he do it?

- 12) What does Joe remind Adam to do?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 248]







THE REVAMP

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Wendy: This place is going to have to have a complete **revamp**.

John: Why? I like it as it is.

Wendy: What do you mean you like it as it is? The paint is peeling off the walls and that wallpaper in the bedroom is hideous!

John: OK. It does need **a lick of paint** here and there, but there's no need to have a personal interior designer do the job. I could have a go.

Wendy: No. You definitely could not have a go! I think Alan would do a wonderful job on this place. Did you see what he did to Ed's town house last year?

John: Yes, I remember it very well. His front room looks more like a chill-out zone in an exclusive disco than a home.

Wendy: I like it and what's more, Ed seems delighted with it.

John: Ed's too polite to say to you what he really thinks, as he knows how highly you think of Alan. By the way, didn't Alan have some of the decorations flown all the way over from Tibet?

Wendy: Don't worry; I'll ask him **to go easy on** the ornaments.

John: Why can't we ring my mate Steve instead? He's a good, reliable painter and decorator.

Wendy: Because I want the place to look stylish. Steve has no style.

John: He might not be as stylish as Alan, but he's a lot cheaper. We could probably use all the money we would save if we used Steve instead of Alan to go on a trip to the Far East. Wouldn't that be great?

Wendy: A trip that would last a week or two. Then we'd have to come back and live with Steve's **handiwork** for the next how many years?

John: OK. But don't say I didn't warn you about Alan. We might end up living in a mock Buddhist temple with disco lighting!

PISTA 03A RUIDO DE FONDO

¡La única complicación es que están manteniendo esta conversación en plenas fallas!

PISTA 03B

Si no entiendes bien con tanto ruido de fondo, también te damos la oportunidad de escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

revamp	reforma
a lick of paint	una mano de pintura
to go easy on...	que no se le vaya la mano con...
handiwork	trabajo

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



QUESTIONS:

- 1) What does Wendy feel the place needs?

- 2) Does John agree?

- 3) Which two things does Wendy mention are wrong with the place?

- 4) What does John object to?

- 5) Who's town house did Alan decorate last year?

- 6) What does John think that Ed's front room looks like?

- 7) Does Wendy think that Ed is happy with what Alan did?

- 8) Where did Alan have the decorations sent from?

- 9) Who does John think should do the job?

- 10) Why does John think he should do it?

- 11) Why doesn't Wendy think it's a good idea?

- 12) What does John suggest they could do with the money they would save by contracting Steve?

- 13) What vision does John have of the end result if Alan does up the place?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 248]







HOUSEWORK

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Wayne: **What on earth** are you doing, John?

John: I'm doing the housework. What does it look like?

Wayne: Have I slipped into a parallel universe? Is that really you standing there with a mop in your hand?

John: I was just thinking that the place could do with a good clean.

Wayne: OK, but don't you realize how **bizarre** that sounds coming from someone whose room looks like a bomb has just hit it?

John: People change, don't they?

Wayne: But this has been pretty sudden. Yesterday you wouldn't have known what a mop was if one had come up and bit you!

John: Well, now I do and I love it! Doing the housework is therapeutic. You should try it.

Wayne: But the main reason we're flatmates, apart from being good friends, is that we've always had a similar attitude towards housework.

John: Yes, but just imagine how it would feel to walk into a clean, fresh-smelling flat every day.

Wayne: That would be kind of **novel**.

John: Imagine the feeling of knowing where everything is.

Wayne: Wow! What a strange thought!

John: Imagine going into the kitchen and not seeing things growing in the sink.

Wayne: That does it! I'm going **to descale** the teapot right away!

John: That's the spirit! By the way, I forgot to tell you; my parents are coming over to visit.

PISTA 04A RUIDO DE FONDO

¡La única complicación es que están manteniendo esta conversación mientras un albañil perfora el suelo!

PISTA 04B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

What on earth...? ¿Qué demonios...?
bizarre extraño, singular
novel novedoso
to descale quitar el sarro a



Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



QUESTIONS:

- 1) How would you describe Wayne's reaction?

- 2) What does Wayne jokingly question could have happened?

- 3) What does John have in his hand?

- 4) How does Wayne describe the state of John's room?

- 5) What is John's rather weak explanation?

- 6) What's John's opinion of the mop?

- 7) How does he describe housework?

- 8) What does John suggest to Wayne?

- 9) According to Wayne, what's the main reason that they're flat mates, apart from being good friends?

- 10) What does John tell Wayne to imagine?

- 11) How would that be, according to Wayne?

- 12) What else does John tell Wayne to imagine?

- 13) What does Wayne eventually decide to do?

- 14) What does John reveal right at the end?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 248]







THE RECIPE

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



- Rose:** Are you crying, Helen?
- Helen:** No. It's just these onions; they always make my eyes water.
- Rose:** What are you making?
- Helen:** I'm trying to make a quiche. The problem is I don't have half the ingredients I need for this **recipe**. For example, I have to make do with these onions because I don't have any **shallots**.
- Rose:** Which **cook book** are you using?
- Helen:** It's one that's just come out. It's by Charles Arginsworth.
- Rose:** The famous TV chef?
- Helen:** That's right.
- Rose:** Wow! He doesn't make things easy, does he? Who on earth has shallots at home?
- Helen:** Well, I don't think it'll make much difference if I use onions instead of shallots, will it?
- Rose:** No. Aren't shallots just small onions?
- Helen:** I really don't know.
- Rose:** It makes you wonder who these chefs are writing cook books for.
- Helen:** You're right... I just want everything to be perfect! What makes him choose such difficult ingredients? It makes me so angry!
- Rose:** There, there. Calm down! I'm sure your quiche will turn out fine. In fact, it'll probably taste better with onions instead of shallots.
- Helen:** Oh, Rose, I do hope so! Could you pass me the fresh **dill weed** and lemon pepper, please?

PISTA 05A RUIDO DE FONDO

Están manteniendo esta conversación en una cocina al lado de una sala de conferencias, mientras alguien está dando un discurso en chino... y además, los asistentes están constantemente mandándoles callar.

PISTA 05B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>recipe</i> (pronounced /résipi/)	.....receta
<i>shallot</i>	.....chalota
<i>cook book</i>	.....libro de recetas
<i>dill weed</i>	.....eneldo



Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



QUESTIONS:

- 1) What does Rose think Helen's doing?

- 2) What's actually happening?

- 3) What's Helen making?

- 4) What's the problem?

- 5) What does Helen need for the recipe that she doesn't have?

- 6) What's she using instead?

- 7) Is the cook book that Helen's using old?

- 8) Who is Charles Arginsworth?

- 9) Do Helen and Rose think it'll make much difference if onions are used instead of shallots?

- 10) What does Rose think shallots are?

- 11) What does the situation make Rose wonder?

- 12) What's the only thing that Helen wants?

- 13) How does Rose try to console Helen?

- 14) What ingredients does Helen ask Rose to pass her?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en las páginas 248 + 249]







BEFORE THE WEDDING

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

- Jay:** Hey Alex, have you seen Dom lately?
- Alex:** Yeah, I had a pub lunch with him and his girlfriend last Friday.
- Jay:** Oh, right, so you didn't get a chance to speak to him about the way he's been behaving lat....
- Alex:** [Interrupts, watching the football] That's a **foul, ref!** Well, I could hardly mention his strange behaviour in front of his girlfriend, could I?
- Jay:** Yeah, I suppose not. Well, one of us needs to have a serious word with him before he goes and **ties the knot**.
- Alex:** But what are we supposed to say to him exactly? "Don't be a fool, don't get married to her!"
- Jay:** But Jenny's adorable, there's nothing wrong with her. It's Dom who's the **head case**; she's the one we should be warning!
- Alex:** I'm sure Dom will be alright, he's probably just got scared about making this final, life-long commitment.
- Jay:** Yeah, but have you seen how he's been acting when he goes out and Jenny's not around?
- Alex:** I know he's been a little embarrassing, hasn't he?
- Jay:** [Shouts at a player] **Cross it, you donkey!** He's been getting blind drunk and trying to **chat up** any girl that has a heartbeat. It's as if he thinks he's 21 all over again!
- Alex:** But he hasn't actually done anything bad, has he?
- Jay:** Well, no. Thankfully he's always been awful at chatting girls up!
- Alex:** Can you imagine what he's going to be like at his **stag party**?
- Jay:** I dread to think, I really do. We'll just have to...
- Alex and Jay:** Penalty, ref! Penalty!!



PISTA 06A RUIDO DE FONDO

Están manteniendo esta conversación en un estadio mientras ven un partido de fútbol, así que tienen la vista en el partido y el oído en la conversación.

PISTA 06B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>foul, ref!</i>	¡falta, árbitro!
<i>to tie the knot</i>	casarse
<i>head case</i>	chiflado/a
<i>cross it, you donkey!</i>	¡centra, paquete!
<i>to chat up</i>	ligar
<i>stag party</i>	fiesta de despedida de solteros

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



QUESTIONS:

- 1) Who does Jay ask Alex if he has seen lately?

- 2) When and where did he see him?

- 3) Was Dom alone when Alex saw him?

- 4) Why didn't Alex mention anything to Dom about the way he's been behaving lately?

- 5) Why does Jay think someone needs to talk to Dom?

- 6) What's Jay's opinion of Dom's future wife?

- 7) What does Alex think might be the matter with Dom?

- 8) Does Dom behave strangely when Jenny is with him?

- 9) What exactly has he been doing?

- 10) Has he done anything bad yet?

- 11) Why does Jay say he hasn't done anything bad yet?

- 12) What future event are they worried about?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 249]







THE BALLET INTERVIEW

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Journalist: Good morning, Mr Bondovorsky and thank you for agreeing to the interview **at such short notice**.

Mikhail: My pleasure, my dear, but I should warn you that we don't have much time. My agent has told me that I have a whole series of interviews to do this morning.

Journalist: Well, I'll try to make this as quick and as pain-free as possible.

Mikhail: And who is this interview for? I mean, what publication do you work for?

Journalist: This is for *El Mundo*. It's a very important and popular Spanish newspaper.

Mikhail: I see, and are the readers of your newspaper interested in classical ballet?

Journalist: Well, yes, I suppose so. We have very **well-rounded**, cultured readers who are interested in a whole host of different subjects. And, anyway, even if they're not interested in dance, they'll be interested in your life story... You've lead such an amazingly fascinating life.

Mikhail: I think it was a normal life for a person who was born in Russia before the Second World War.

Journalist: If you don't mind me saying so, I think that's one of the reasons why you're so well-loved **the world over**; apart from being one of the most important dancers and choreographers of the twentieth century, you've always been incredibly modest about your success.

Mikhail: I'm only a dancer, my dear. It's not a matter of life and death. It's just a form of entertainment, a very beautiful form of entertainment, nonetheless.

Journalist: Do you not consider it to be more important than mere entertainment? Do you not consider it to be art?

Mikhail: Yes, you're right, it is art. Do you consider entertainment to be a dirty word?

Journalist: The word entertainment seems slightly frivolous to me. What you have done for the world of dance and for Russian culture in general goes far beyond putting **bums on seats**. Yours is not popcorn culture.

Mikhail: My, my! What a charming and intelligent young journalist you are!

Journalist: Thank you, you're making me **blush**!

PISTA 07A RUIDO DE FONDO

Esta conversación tiene lugar en la terraza de un bar.

PISTA 07B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

at such short notice	en tan poco tiempo
well-rounded	plenamente desarrollado, equilibrado
the world over	en todo el mundo
bums on seats	expresión que se refiere a la gente que paga por ver espectáculos en cines o teatros
to blush	ruborizar

TEMA: THE BALLET INTERVIEW

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



QUESTIONS:

- 1) Was the interview planned a long time in advance?

- 2) Why doesn't Mikhail Bondovorsky have much time for the interview?

- 3) Is the interview for television?

- 4) What type of readers does *El Mundo* have, according to the journalist?

- 5) Why does the journalist think the readers will be interested in the interview even if they're not interested in dance?

- 6) When and where was Mikhail born?

- 7) What reasons does the journalist give for Mikhail's international popularity?

- 8) How do we know that Mikhail doesn't consider what he does to be so important?

- 9) Does the journalist agree that what he does is just entertainment?

- 10) What does the journalist think of the word entertainment?

- 11) How does Mikhail embarrass the journalist?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 249]







THE SPITTING IMAGE OF CYNTHIA

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

- Tania:** [Whispering] Look over there... But don't be too obvious.
- Nadia:** What is it?
- Tania:** That girl sitting next to the column.
- Nadia:** What about her?
- Tania:** **She's the spitting image of Cynthia**, isn't she?
- Nadia:** No, she's not! Cynthia looks much younger than she does. She could be her mum.
- Tania:** OK, but you must admit that they do have the same look, don't they? Short hair, **ill-fitting clothes**, **funny-looking** hat, too much make-up...
- Nadia:** I take it you don't think too highly of Cynthia.
- Tania:** No, I'm actually quite fond of her. I just don't like her look.
- Nadia:** Well, looks can be deceiving.
- Tania:** [Whispering emphatically] Careful; she's looking right in our direction! It looks like she's **clocked us**!
- Nadia:** Have we been that obvious?
- Tania:** Wow! She's really glaring at us now!
- Nadia:** Well, stop looking at her, then.
- Tania:** I can't help it.
- Nadia:** Yes, you can. It's simply a matter of looking in the other direction.
- Tania:** Now she's getting up... and heading in our direction! Boy she does look angry. What shall we say to her?
- Nadia:** Just tell her the truth.
- Tania:** [To the woman] I'm very sorry. We mistook you for a friend of ours, Cynthia... but she looks a lot younger than you... We were just saying that you could be her mum... In fact, seeing you up close, you could even pass as her grandmother... and that dress makes your bum look big.



PISTA 08A RUIDO DE FONDO

El problema es que Nadia y Tania están hablando en un aeropuerto, con el ruido de los aviones de fondo.

PISTA 08B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>to be the spitting</i>	.....	ser la viva imagen de
<i>image of someone</i>	.....	alguien
<i>ill-fitting clothes</i>	.....	ropa que te queda mal
<i>funny-looking</i>	.....	con aspecto raro
<i>to clock someone</i>	.....	ver/fijarse en alguien



TEMA: THE SPITTING IMAGE OF CYNTHIA

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



QUESTIONS:

- 1) Where is the girl that Nadia notices sitting?

- 2) Does Tania think the girl looks like someone she knows?

- 3) According to Tania, who does she look like?

- 4) Does Nadia agree with Tania?

- 5) What difference does Nadia see between Cynthia and the stranger?

- 6) What similarities does Tania list?

- 7) Does Tania like Cynthia?

- 8) What aspect does she not like about Cynthia?

- 9) Does the stranger look at Nadia and Tania in a friendly manner when she realizes she's being watched?

- 10) What does the stranger do next?

- 11) What advice does Nadia give Tania?

- 12) How does Tania take Nadia's advice?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 249]







THE PARENTS MEETING

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

- Teacher:** Mr Collins, isn't it? So glad you could make it to the teacher parents evening. I'm Harriet Bush, Johnny's teacher.
- Mr Collins:** Hello, nice to meet you. So tell me; **how's** my little Johnny **getting along** this term?
- Teacher:** Where would you like me to start, with the positives or the negatives?
- Mr Collins:** Well, I suppose I'd better get the bad news first and then finish on a positive note.
- Teacher:** Now, as you know, Johnny hasn't been getting very good marks lately...
- Mr Collins:** I **wasn't aware of** that, actually. Johnny told me he hasn't had to do any tests or exams for a while now.
- Teacher:** Oh dear, in that case I'm rather afraid that he's been **pulling the wool over your eyes**. We grade students monthly. Haven't you been getting those monthly reports?
- Mr Collins:** No, I haven't got anything from the school in months.
- Teacher:** We e-mail the reports; we might not have your address written down correctly.
- Mr Collins:** OK, here's my card. So what other bad news do you have for me?
- Teacher:** His work has been getting worse and worse over the last few months. His attitude seems to have changed and I suspect it's because he's been getting in with the wrong crowd of boys, who are having a negative influence on him. Have you noticed any changes in him?
- Mr Collins:** Well, he seems to be a little **moodier** and less talkative; but I thought that was him just being a typical teenager.
- Teacher:** That's possible. He rarely gets to school on time and when he does arrive, he seems to be half asleep. Do you think he gets enough sleep?
- Mr Collins:** I'll kill the little sh... I don't know what time he gets to bed as he spends most evenings in his bedroom working, or most probably, playing with his computer. I didn't know he was getting to school late as I have to leave home before him in the mornings.
- Teacher:** You might want to have a serious word with him.
- Mr Collins:** You're telling me. Can I have one of those positives you were talking about?
- Teacher:** Mmm? Well, he does seem to be very popular with the girls!



PISTA 09A RUIDO DE FONDO

El problema es que están en el patio del colegio, donde hay muchos niños haciendo ruido.

PISTA 09B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>How's he getting along?</i>	¿Cómo le va?
<i>to be aware of</i>	ser consciente de
<i>to pull the wool over someone's eyes</i>	dar a alguien gato por liebre
<i>moodier</i>	malhumorado
(comparative of <i>moody</i>)	

TEMA: THE PARENTS MEETING

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



QUESTIONS:

- 1) Has Mr Collins met this teacher before? How do you know that?

- 2) What have Johnny's marks at school been like lately?

- 3) Why doesn't Mr Collins know much about Johnny's academic progress?

- 4) How are the reports sent?

- 5) Why does the teacher think that Mr Collins might not be receiving the reports?

- 6) What possible cause does the teacher give for Johnny's recent attitude change?

- 7) Has Mr Collins noticed any changes in his son's attitude?

- 8) The teacher mentions two more problems. What are they?

- 9) Why doesn't Mr Collins know what time his son gets to school at?

- 10) What positive does the teacher mention at the end?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 249]







THE FUTURE OF PEACH

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

Journalist: Well, here we are in the heart of Silicon Valley at the headquarters of Peach Technologies, the world's leading manufacturer of high-tech **gadgets**, and I'm talking with Larry Bell, the company's CEO and visionary. Larry, thanks for taking the time out today to talk to us.

Larry Bell: My pleasure, Ron, it's good to see you again.

Journalist: If we could start off today with you telling us a little about this amazing room where we're conducting this interview. It looks like something out of a futuristic science fiction movie.

Larry Bell: This part of the complex is the creative hub of Peach Technologies, this is just one of a series of rooms where our creative designers and engineers come together to try to come up with new ideas for the market.

Journalist: How involved are you with that daily creative process?

Larry Bell: Well, it's my job to create a long-term vision for the company and its products. I'll come up with an idea for a product and then I leave it to everybody else to make sure that the vision is able to come to life.

Journalist: How long does it take for that process? I mean, from the time you come up with an idea to the moment when that product comes on to the market.

Larry Bell: That's a tough one to answer. You know I never really feel that we ever finish making products. Every time we launch a new piece of technology on to the market, it's just an **ongoing** part of the latest in a series of improvements and advancements on the previous model.

Journalist: Wow, it comes as a big surprise to hear that. So you're telling me that you're never completely happy with any product you launch.

Larry Bell: Don't put words into my mouth; I didn't say that I'm not happy with our products. Of course when a new product of ours comes on to the market, you can be sure that it's going to be the best and most innovative one in its category, but that doesn't mean it can't be improved upon. The most important thing for the company is the search for excellence and perfection, but I don't think either of those can ever truly be realised.

Journalist: What would you say your greatest achievement has been?



PISTA 10A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad extra del audio es que están manteniendo la entrevista en medio de la oficina de Peach Technologies.

PISTA 10B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escucharla conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

gadget	dispositivo tecnológico
ongoing	en curso, desarrollo
to rest on one's laurels	dormirse en los laureles
let alone	mucho menos

TEMA: THE FUTURE OF PEACH



- Larry Bell:** I think it's dangerous to look back on past achievements because there's a danger you might **rest on your laurels** and become complacent. I'll have time to look on achievements when I've retired.
- Journalist:** Well, looking forward in that case, can you tell us what products you're currently working on and what wonders we can expect to see from Peach in the future?
- Larry Bell:** I wouldn't trust my wife with that information, **let alone** a journalist!

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



QUESTIONS:

- 1) Where is the interview taking place?

- 2) Apart from being the CEO, what, according to the journalist, is Larry Bell's other role in the company?

- 3) Has Larry Bell met the journalist before?

- 4) What does the journalist say the room where the interview is taking place looks like?

- 5) What is the room usually used for?

- 6) Is Larry Bell involved in the daily creative process?

- 7) Why does Larry feel that his products are never really finished?

- 8) Why does he get irritated with the journalist and say that he is putting words into his mouth?

- 9) What does Larry say is the most important thing for the company?

- 10) Why doesn't Larry like to think about his achievements?

- 11) When will he start thinking about his achievements?

- 12) Why doesn't Larry tell the journalist about the company's new products?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en las páginas 249 + 250]





PARKY'S INTERVIEW

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Nicola Parkerson: [Applause] Thank you, thank you and welcome back to the second half of this amazing interview. Now if you've just tuned in, shame on you! How could you have missed even a second of this incredible interview? We are of course here today with no other than the living rock legend, Mr Jimmy Rage!! [More wild applause]

Jimmy Rage: [Talks to the audience] Wow, that's great. You guys would make a great alarm call in the mornings! How much would I have to pay you all for waking me up in the morning? [Laughs]

Nicola: Speaking of waking up in a room with hundreds of people whose names you don't know... I would like to take you back, if I may, to the 1970s.

Jimmy: [Laughs] You, cheeky b...! Well, Parky, I can call you Parky, can't I? I can't remember anything about the 70s. Man, the 70s were tough enough the first time round. I think it's too cruel a punishment to make anyone go back to the 70s.

Nicola: Parky's fine by me, Jimmy! Now you say that the 70s were tough, but I think anyone in the world would like to have changed places with you in the 1970s. You lived every man's dream life. I think it's fair to say, is it not Jimmy, that you... how can I put it... that you "lived a little"?

Jimmy: If by that you mean that... mmm, now how can I put it? That "my soldier was stationed in a lot of different **barracks**", then, yes, I suppose I did live a little. But it wasn't all fun, I can assure you.

Nicola: We'll come to the non-fun parts in a moment if we can. But first let's talk about the highs...

Jimmy: [Laughs] Oh, I had a lot of highs alright...

Nicola: What's your single best memory of your **heyday** in the 70s?

Jimmy: Without a doubt it would be our tours of the US in the early 70s. I suppose that we were the first mega rock band that played stadium after stadium, night after night in front of hundreds of thousands of people a week. You'd have to be a massive liar to say that that isn't one hell of an **ego trip**.

Nicola: And is there a downside to all that touring?

Jimmy: I mean, definitely. Touring rock stars are just like glamorous travelling gypsies. Spending every night in different hotels makes you feel like you don't belong anywhere and all that **takes a toll** on your family life, if you decide to have one... which is probably better not to.

PISTA 11A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que la entrevista tiene lugar delante de una audiencia muy animada.

PISTA 11B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

barracks	un cuartel militar
heyday	el auge
ego trip	un subidón para el ego
to take a toll	tener efectos negativos
wouldn't have taken it too kindly	no le habría hecho mucha gracia

TEMA: PARKY'S INTERVIEW



- Nicola:** If you could have done anything differently, what would it have been?
- Jimmy:** Well, I think it's much better to regret the things you've done than the things you haven't, so I really wouldn't change any of the high times we had or the wild life we lived. If I could change anything, I'd have tried to be a better father and to have spent more time with my kids. What about you, Parky, have you got any regrets from the 70s? Saying no to me when I asked you out must be one of them!
- Nicola:** Well, I don't think my husband at the time **would have taken it too kindly** if I had said yes to you and become one of your groupies!

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



QUESTIONS:

- 1) Is the interview just starting?

- 2) What would Jimmy like to do with the audience?

- 3) How does Nicola connect his comment about the alarm call to the 1970s?

- 4) What does Jimmy remember about the 70s?

- 5) Why does Nicola say that any man would have changed places with Jimmy in the 70s?

- 6) What expression does Jimmy use to say that he "lived a little"?

- 7) What's his best memory of the 70s?

- 8) Why does he compare rock stars to gypsies?

- 9) What does he say is the downside to touring a lot?

- 10) Why does he say it is better to regret?

- 11) What would he have changed?

- 12) What happened between Jimmy and Nicola in the 70s?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 250]





THE CONCERT

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

- Lucy:** Hey, Phil, **what are you up to** this weekend?
- Phil:** Hey, Lucy, how are you doing? Well, I wasn't planning on doing much, I was thinking of just taking it easy, to be honest.
- Lucy:** Well, if you fancy it, we're all going to see a concert on Saturday night.
- Phil:** I **dunno**. I haven't been to a concert in ages; they're too expensive these days. Who's playing anyway?
- Lucy:** It's alright, it's not Coldplay or the Stones or anyone like that, so you don't need to take a mortgage out or anything. Have you ever heard of The Busy Beaver?
- Phil:** The Busy Beaver? Nope. I must be getting old. What sort of music do they... or he... or she play?
- Lucy:** (laughs) The Busy Beaver isn't the name of the group, silly! It's the name of this new pub where the band is playing!
- Phil:** People are still opening up new pubs in the current economic climate? That's very brave, I must say. So who is playing, anyway? I might go if it's a **good, old-fashioned** pub band.
- Lucy:** They're some friends of Derek's who play in a band. I think they're called The Freaky Frigates or something like that, I couldn't tell you what kind of music they play, though.
- Phil:** Well, with a name like The Freaky Frigates, they're hardly going to be a Simon and Garfunkel melodic folk band, are they? And did you say Derek?
- Lucy:** That's right, Derek, Derek Duval. You know him, don't you?
- Phil:** Dull Derek Duval?! Oh, I know him alright! He's the most boring man this side of London. And he's a complete musical snob. I've been with him at concerts before, and he's a nightmare; he never stops criticising the band and picking out all their flaws...
- Lucy:** Well, that means if the band playing are personal friends of his they must be pretty good. Don't be such **a stick-in-the-mud**, come along! There's a big crowd of us going.
- Phil:** I dunno, Luce. I'm going to have to think about it and **get back to you on it**. The Freaky Frigates at The Busy Beaver in the company of Derek Duval! You couldn't make that combination of names up if you tried!



PISTA 12A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que en el fondo se oye a una persona ensayando con la guitarra. ¡Y digamos que no es precisamente Paco de Lucía!

PISTA 12B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

What are you up to?	manera informal de preguntar '¿Qué haces?'
dunno	contracción de "don't know"
good, old-fashioned	de toda la vida
a stick-in-the-mud	un carca, aguafiestas
to get back to someone on something	dar una respuesta a alguien más tarde

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



QUESTIONS:

- 1) What was Phil planning on doing this weekend?

- 2) What are Lucy and her friends going to do on Saturday night?

- 3) Why hasn't Phil been to a concert in ages?

- 4) What does Phil think The Busy Beaver is and what is it really?

- 5) Why is Phil surprised that someone has opened up a new pub?

- 6) What does Lucy know about the band apart from the fact that they're called The Freaky Frigates?

- 7) Who or what does Phil say that The Freaky Frigates are NOT going to be like?

- 8) What adjectives does Phil use to describe Derek?

- 9) What does he say about Derek with regards to music?

- 10) Is Phil going to go to the concert in the end?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 250]







LATE FOR DINNER

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Sarah: Be careful, Frank! You almost hit that car.

Frank: **Keep your hair on**, would you! You're the one who told me to **put my foot on it**.

Sarah: Well, I meant that we need to get to Janet and Alan's house as quickly as possible; we're really late as it is. But I'd rather we got there alive and in one piece.

Frank: I know a shortcut we could take through the town centre.

Sarah: That could work out far worse if we get stuck in one of the backstreets there. Besides, half the roads in the centre are blocked because of the road works.

Frank: Yeah, I guess you're right. It could be a bit risky to go that way. I don't understand why it's taking us so long; there's not usually this amount of traffic on a Wednesday night.

Sarah: There must have been an accident or something.

Frank: Did you phone them to let them know that we're going to be late? You know how **fussy** Alan can be when it comes to people being unpunctual.

Sarah: Yeah, I phoned them. Janet sounded alright about it, though.

Frank: She's not the one we have to worry about. Alan's the one who'll be making **snide remarks** all night. I suppose we'll have to listen to them all night long talking about their wedding plans as well, won't we?

Sarah: Probably. But you can't blame them, it's only three weeks away now and it's normal for them to be excited about it. You remember how we were when we were going to get married, don't you?

Frank: Yeah, but I'm sure we didn't bore people with all the minute details of the wedding arrangements. The last time I spoke to Janet, she spent about half an hour talking about her wedding dress.

Sarah: Why exactly are you coming to this meal if you can't stand either of them?

Frank: I wouldn't go that far. I don't actually mind them that much. Alan can be a bit **sarky** and Janet does tend to **go on** a bit at times, but deep down they're quite nice, I suppose. We're not the only ones going though, are we?

Sarah: I think Tina and John are going as well.

Frank: Oh, that's alright then; **he's quite a good laugh**.

Sarah: Frank, watch out! Keep your eyes on the road for Pete's sake or you'll get us killed!

PISTA 13A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están en un coche y se oye mucho ruido de tráfico y la radio del coche.

PISTA 13B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

Keep your hair on!	¡Cálmate!
to put your foot on it	acelerar
fussy	quisquilloso/a
snide remarks	comentarios sarcásticos
sarky	abreviatura informal de 'sarcástico'
to go on	no dejar de hablar
he's quite a good laugh	es un tipo divertido

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



QUESTIONS:

- 1) Why does Frank blame Sarah for almost hitting the car?

- 2) Where are they going?

- 3) Why are they in such a hurry?

- 4) Why don't they take the shortcut through the town centre?

- 5) Is Alan relaxed about people arriving late?

- 6) Was Janet angry when Sarah phoned to tell her that they were going to be late?

- 7) What does Frank hope they're not going to talk about all night?

- 8) What did Janet speak to him about for half an hour the last time he was with her?

- 9) Does Frank hate Janet and Alan?

- 10) Why is Frank happy that Tina and John are going to go to the meal?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 250]







THE SCRIPTS

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

- Harvey:** Have you read the script yet, Kathleen?
- Kathleen:** I sure have. I read it **in one sitting** this weekend. Once I started, I couldn't put it down.
- Harvey:** Great, so you like it then?
- Kathleen:** Like it? I love it! It's amazing; it's one of the best scripts I've read in ages. I want to make this movie, Harvey... Well, more than want; we have to make this movie, Harvey.
- Harvey:** I'm already one step ahead of you. As soon as I read it I bought the rights!
- Kathleen:** That's my Harvey! We need to get working on this as quickly as possible. We want to start thinking about who we want to direct it, which actors we want to star in it and where would be best to film it.
- Harvey:** I've already started to make a few calls to some agents whose actors I had in mind. Do you have any ideas about who you want to play the lead roles?
- Kathleen:** As I was reading it, I was thinking about a Hugh Grant type for the role of Dane and maybe some upcoming beautiful, young actress for the part of Jessie.
- Harvey:** Hang on a second. What script are you talking about? The one I'm **on about** is a **gritty** realistic social drama set in 1940s New York. I hardly think Hugh Grant would be suitable for the role of Dean Koplowski, the **hard-nosed**, alcoholic union boss. I mean this isn't a **romcom**, Kathleen, for Pete's sake!
- Kathleen:** What script is that? The one I read was called *A Very British Affair* and the lead character is called Dane Carruthers, not Dean Kapolooski.
- Harvey:** Koplowski. It's Koplowski. Are you seriously telling me that you liked that script? Jeez, Kathleen, I think you're losing your touch. I couldn't get through five pages of that junk. It was awful. I mean, that opening scene where he makes a fool of himself at his sister's wedding was so **trite**.
- Kathleen:** Whoa, whoa there, Mr Big Shot Producer! Just hold that tongue of yours for one second! First of all, who was it who picked all three of our studio's **highest-grossing films** of last year? And secondly, if you'd bothered to read past the first five pages, you would have realized that that wedding scene was a dream sequence in which Dane has a nightmare about a terrible film he has been forced to make.
- Harvey:** Ah right, I see. Whatever... It's not like Hugh Grant is flavour of the month any more anyway.



PISTA 14A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que ¡están hablando en un zoo!

PISTA 14B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

in one sitting	de un tirón
to be on about something	hablar de algo
gritty	crudo
hard-nosed	duro
romcom	una comedia romántica
trite	trillado
highest-grossing film	la película de mayor recaudación en taquilla
unrest	disturbios



Kathleen: I said a Hugh Grant type. I didn't say Hugh Grant. It's not a romantic comedy either; this lead character is a very dark, complex kind of guy.

Harvey: So why the hell would you want a Hugh Grant type for that role? Anyway, I've already given the green light for this other film about the industrial **unrest** in 1940s New York.

Kathleen: That sounds like a barrel of laughs, what's it called?

Harvey: *Koplowski's Vendetta*. Listen, why don't you read this script and I'll try and give this Hugh Grant melodrama another go as well. Deal?

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



QUESTIONS:

- 1) What does Harvey ask Kathleen if she has read?

- 2) What does she think of the script?

- 3) Why does Harvey say he's already one step ahead of her?

- 4) What other steps has he taken in the pre-production of the film?

- 5) Who has Kathleen thought of for the lead male role?

- 6) When and where is Harvey's film set?

- 7) What type of character is Dean Koplowski?

- 8) What film is Kathleen talking about?

- 9) What does Harvey think about that film?

- 10) Why does Kathleen think that he has no right to criticize her choice of films?

- 11) Why does Harvey think that Hugh Grant is not the right choice for that movie anyway?

- 12) What's the name of the film that Harvey has given the green light for?

- 13) How does Harvey propose to solve their differing point of views?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 250]



15A 15B HAPPINESS

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Clement: Do you think people feel more or less happy today than they were, say, 50 years ago?

Moir: I'd say that people feel less happy nowadays even though it should be the other way around, as they have much more to be happy about than people did 50 years ago.

Clement: That's interesting; although it does sound like a slight contradiction in terms. Can you explain your reasoning behind that theory?

Moir: Well, I mean, 50 years ago or even further back if we think about our parents' and our grandparents' generations, people had truly important things to worry about: war, fascism, poverty, hunger, nuclear destruction...

Clement: A lot of those things still exist today, you know.

Moir: Of course, but they don't really affect us so directly in the developed West. Maybe if you lived in parts of Africa, they would. But a few generations back our **forefathers** had to fight in wars to defend themselves against these threats.

Clement: I see, so what you're saying is people really did have existential threats to worry about back then.

Moir: Absolutely. These days people **take** their own physical survival **for granted**. They're not worried about being bombed or invaded. Although poverty still exists to a certain degree in western countries, it's very rare for people to be in danger of dying of hunger.

Clement: So why is it then that you think people feel unhappier these days?

Moir: I think there are many reasons. Firstly, because they're encouraged to analyze their lives much more than before. In the past people didn't stop so much to think about whether they were happy or not. For most people life was more a question of surviving, marrying young and reproducing. **You just got on with it...** if you lived to be a healthy 70 year-old, you could consider yourself to be very lucky.

Clement: That's true. Young people these days seem to think it's a **God-given** right to be happy. Most don't think about getting married and having kids until they're well into their thirties. It seems that a lot of them associate a married, family life as an end to the fun of their youth. And tell me, do you think the rise in the consumerist society has led to people feeling less happy as well?

PISTA 15A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que hay una radio encendida sonando de fondo.

PISTA 15B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escucharla conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>forefathers</i>	antepasados
<i>to take something for granted</i>	dar algo por sentado
<i>you just got on with it</i>	simplemente tenías que seguir con tu vida
<i>God-given</i>	otorgado por la gracia de Dios
<i>gadgets</i>	artilugios
<i>sleek</i>	de líneas elegantes



- Moira:** Very much so. Young people are bombarded by images of perfect people with seemingly perfect lives. They're sold the idea that happiness can be attained via the acquisition of material goods, and that's just plain wrong.
- Clement:** But don't you think technology has advanced our lives in so many ways?
- Moira:** Of course it has. Computers and phones and **gadgets** are wonderful things. We can do things now that we could only have dreamed of even 20 years ago. But how long is having a shiny, small, **sleek** piece of metal in your hands going to make you happy for? We've gained in the material, but not in the spiritual.

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



QUESTIONS:

- 1) Does Moira think people feel more or less happy than they were 50 years ago?

- 2) Does she think this should be so?

- 3) What things does she say that previous generations had to worry about?

- 4) Does she think that these threats still exist in the West?

- 5) What does she say that people take for granted these days?

- 6) What does she say that is rare that happens these days in western countries?

- 7) What does she say that people are encouraged to do more of these days?

- 8) What was life more a question of in the past?

- 9) According to Clement, what don't people start to think about doing until they are in their thirties?

- 10) What does Moira say young people are sold the idea of nowadays?

- 11) Does she think technology is a good thing?

- 12) What does she say we have and haven't gained?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 250]





THE NEW SHOW

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

- Emma:** So tell us, John, what's the idea behind this new show of yours *Better the devil you know!*?
- John:** Well, it's ludicrously simple really; we have two teams of celebrities and comedians and they have to try and **outdo** each other by coming up with the weirdest and most interesting facts that they can on a given topic.
- Emma:** So is it a comedy show or a general knowledge quiz type show?
- John:** It's definitely a general knowledge show, but there's no quiz element to it and hopefully it will be a comedy show too... But that rather depends on how funny our guests are each week!
- Emma:** How do the teams win? I mean, is there a scoring system?
- John:** In each round the audience has to decide which celebrity has come up with the most fascinating piece of information and they vote using a special electronic pad that has been specially designed and installed in every seat.
- Emma:** So the team member that gets the most votes wins the point for that round.
- John:** Exactly. The teams can also get points if they spot the other team's **red herring**.
- Emma:** What do you mean by red herring exactly?
- John:** Well, in each show each team is allowed to give one fact or tell one story that is complete rubbish; it's up to the other team to spot this lie, if they do so, they win points. But the points element of the show is mostly irrelevant. The important thing is that the guests talk about all the facts and have a good laugh at some of the more unbelievable facts that we **come up with**.
- Emma:** And how can you be sure that all of the other facts and pieces of information that will be given out on the program will be 100% correct?
- John:** I'll let you in on a little secret. The comedians and celebrities don't actually come up with any of the facts themselves. Good lord, no! We have a fantastic team of **egghead** researchers who spend six months a year trying to find the most interesting facts that they can.
- Emma:** So what inspired you to think of this great idea?



PISTA 16A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que de fondo suena el ruido de un partido de fútbol que están echando en la tele.

PISTA 16B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

to outdo someone	superar a alguien
red herring	pista falsa
to come up with	proponer, inventar, encontrar
egghead	un cerebritito
mind-numbing	algo que atrofia el cerebro
crap	porquería, estupideces



John: I think there's room on telly to make entertaining but informative shows. When I turn on the TV these days everything just seems to be gossip programs, reality shows or talent contests; it's all **mind-numbing crap**... So little of it makes you stop and think and smile. My idea for the show is that I want the audience to feel like they've been invited to the best dinner party in the world where the guests are Woody Allen, Leonardo Da Vinci, Groucho Marx and Lady Gaga!

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



QUESTIONS:

- 1) What's John's new show called?

- 2) What's the general idea for the show?

- 3) According to John, will the show be funny?

- 4) Who decides which information is the most interesting and how?

- 5) What's the red herring part of the show?

- 6) Is John interested in the points? What's more important for him?

- 7) Do the celebrities come up with the facts themselves?

- 8) What type of programs does he say are on TV?

- 9) What does he compare his show to?

- 10) What guests' names does John mention at this dinner party?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 251]







THE FLIGHT

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



- Nicola:** Shhh! David, stop singing! Take your headphones off and pay attention; this is the most important part!
- David:** [Shouts] What? I can't hear you, I'm listening to Jay-Z! Ouch... What are you doing!
- Nicola:** Take these off! And I don't care if you're listening to Jay-Z or A-B-C... You shouldn't be listening to your music while they're saying the safety announcements.
- David:** But I can never understand a word they're saying!
- Nicola:** They say it in Spanish first and then they'll say it in English, **dummy**!
- David:** Well, I can't understand them when they speak in English either. They just read it from a script and I can't tell from their pronunciation where one word ends and another one begins. Anyway, who cares? I've been on a flight loads of times; I know exactly what they're going to say!
- Nicola:** Do you know where all your emergency exits are?
- David:** This is a plane, it's hardly a secret where the emergency exits are, is it? Hey, look, that's funny! We're in **row** 14, but it should be row 13; the row in front of us says row 12.
- Nicola:** Oh, wow, I didn't know that. So it really is true that they take row 13 out of planes for superstitious people.
- David:** Looks that way. Did she just say that this is a no-smoking plane? Is it really necessary to still say that? We're not in 1989, you know. I mean, is there anyone who still thinks you can smoke on planes?
- Nicola:** I think they still mention it to dissuade people from having a **cheeky** cigarette in the toilets.
- David:** What's wrong with these stupid seats? Why don't they recline? They're supposed to recline.
- Nicola:** This is a low-cost flight, David. You're not supposed to be comfortable.
- David:** Oh great, so I'm supposed to be uncomfortable, is that the idea? Why don't they just throw away the chairs and chain us to the metal floor like we were prisoners on our way to Guantanamo.
- Nicola:** Stop **moaning** so much, will you! We're supposed to be on our honeymoon. You can't recline your seat on take-off anyway.

PISTA 17A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio radica en que están hablando dentro de un avión.

PISTA 17B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

dummy	tonto/a
row	fila
cheeky	descarado
to moan	quejarse
to chillax	combinación (¡horrible!) de las palabras "to chill" y "to relax"
moron	imbécil
to guesstimate	otra combinación horrible de las palabras "to guess" y "to estimate" !



David: But, listen, listen! The girl just said “sit back, **chillax** and enjoy the flight”. How am I supposed to sit back if the chair doesn’t recline?! And did she really just say “chillax”? Who uses the word “chillax” these days apart from **morons** trying to sound cool! I hate the word “chillax”, it’s almost as bad as “**guesstimate**”!

Nicola: David, would you try and relax or chillax or whatever? You’re making me nervous.

David: You must know by now that I get irritable when I have to fly...

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



QUESTIONS:

- 1) What does Nicola tell David to stop doing and to take off?

- 2) Why does she tell him that he has to do this?

- 3) What two reasons does he give for not listening to the announcements?

- 4) Why does he know what they’re going to say?

- 5) What does he notice about the plane?

- 6) According to Nicola, why is there no row 13?

- 7) Why does Nicola think that they still mention the fact that it is a no-smoking plane?

- 8) What problem does David have with the seats?

- 9) According to Nicola, why don’t the seats recline?

- 10) Are David and Nicola friends?

- 11) What made-up words does David hate?

- 12) What’s the real reason for David being irritable?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 251]





THE FAMILY GET-TOGETHER

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

Marcus: Hey, Fiona, how many of us are there going to be this year at the family get-together?

Fiona: Well, brother of mine, I think it's going to be a **biggie**; as far as I'm aware, pretty much all of our aunts and uncles and cousins will be coming.

Marcus: [Sighs] Geez... That means there's going to be more than 30 of us. I hope we're not going to have another joke telling session at the end of the meal again this year, are we?

Fiona: Of course we are! You know that it's a family tradition.

Marcus: Not in anybody else's family that I know! So why should it be in ours? If there's one thing I hate more than people telling me jokes, it's being forced to tell them myself!

Fiona: Well, you could do something else, you know, you don't have to tell a joke. All that's required is that each family member should **do a little turn**. You could sing a song or something; you're always singing in the shower, you've got quite a nice voice.

Marcus: Oh, great. So now I have to sing in public. Why don't I get some balls out and start **juggling** or maybe a little **shadow puppetry** or animal balloons for the kids!

Fiona: Oh, Marcus! You're such a **grumpy** old **stick-in-the-mud**. Anyone would think you were 73, not 23! Anyway, what harm is there in telling a few jokes at a family get-together?

Marcus: I can't stand it when someone comes up to me and tells me that they're going to tell me a joke; it makes me tense.

Fiona: Well, it's meant to have the opposite effect! It's supposed to make you laugh.

Marcus: That's it, that's just the problem. As soon as I feel like I'm obliged to laugh or smile, I can't, it makes me tense. I get the same feeling when somebody pays me a compliment or gives me a present and they expect to see me with a big **beaming** smile, it just makes me feel uncomfortable.

Fiona: Have you ever thought about talking to someone professionally about this problem?

Marcus: Oh, ha, ha! Besides, most of the jokes people tell are awful. And Uncle George always tells his stupid dirty jokes, it's so embarrassing.

Fiona: Wow! Remind me to sit next to you at the party; you're a bundle of laughs lately, aren't you? You old **misery guts**! So what do you suggest we do to **liven** the party **up**?



PISTA 18A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando mientras ven un espectáculo de fuegos artificiales.

PISTA 18B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>biggie</i>	uno grande
<i>to do a turn</i>	hacer un número
<i>to juggle</i>	hacer malabarismos
<i>shadow puppetry</i>	sombras de marionetas
<i>grumpy stick-in-the-mud</i>	un gruñón/una gruñona
<i>beaming</i>	radiante
<i>misery guts</i>	un/a aguafiestas
<i>to liven up</i>	animar
<i>to be down in the dumps</i>	estar de capa caída

TEMA: THE FAMILY GET-TOGETHER



Marcus: Why do we have to do anything?! Why can't we just sit and talk and eat and drink? Like any other normal family does.

Fiona: Marcus, you know it's been five months since you split up with Katie and you've **been down in the dumps** ever since. You've got to get over it. A big family party might be just what you need.

Marcus: Yeah, maybe you're right... That or a small hand-gun! [Laughs]

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



QUESTIONS:

- 1) How many people will there be at the family get-together this year?

- 2) What does Marcus hope isn't going to happen?

- 3) Do they usually tell jokes?

- 4) What two things does Marcus hate?

- 5) What does Fiona suggest he could do instead?

- 6) What three things does Marcus sarcastically suggest he could do as alternatives?

- 7) Why doesn't Marcus like people telling him jokes?

- 8) What other situations make him feel the same way?

- 9) What does Fiona suggest to Marcus to help him?

- 10) What does Uncle George always do?

- 11) According to Fiona, what is the real reason for Marcus's negative attitude?

- 12) When did Marcus and Katie split up?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 251]





THE SQUATTERS

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Lisa: Callum, when are you going to tell these bloody Australians to leave our flat? I can't **put up with** them any longer; they've been in our flat for over two weeks now.

Callum: Yeah, I know. I'll tell them tomorrow.

Lisa: But that's what you said last Friday; you've been putting it off for days now.

Callum: I know, I know. It's just it's not very easy to kick somebody out on to the street.

Lisa: I wouldn't mind, but we hardly know them. **How come** we had to **put them up** in the first place?

Callum: I've already told you that; they're Australian friends of my best **mate** George, who lives in Japan. We're returning a favour for him. They helped him out and put him up when he was travelling in Sydney, so he told them that if they were ever in Brighton to **look us up**.

Lisa: But I don't think the expression "to look us up" means come and stay with us for two weeks, eat all our food and do absolutely nothing in return. It's your mate George who should be returning the favour, not us!

Callum: You're right. I was hardly to know they were going to stay indefinitely.

Lisa: Didn't you ask them how long they were planning to stay for?

Callum: Well, they told me as long as we were willing to put up with them. But I thought that was just Australian humour or something. I thought they'd be gone in a few days, four or five at the most.

Lisa: You know, I was cleaning the house yesterday and they just sat watching TV and instead of offering to lend me a hand they just put their feet up on the tables and watched me. They didn't offer to help or anything. In fact, Bruce, the ugly little one had the cheek to tell me that I looked cute with a mop in my hand. I could've punched his lights out.

Callum: [Laughs] Well, that is true... You do look kind of cute the way you **sweep** and mop the floor.

Lisa: It's not funny, you know! Have they given you any money for food or anything?

PISTA 19A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que parece que están hablando a la orilla del mar.

PISTA 19B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>to put up with someone</i>	.....	aguantar a alguien
<i>How come...?</i>	.....	otra manera de decir "why...?"
<i>to put someone up</i>	.....	alojar a alguien
<i>mate</i>	.....	amigo, colega
<i>to look someone up</i>	.....	hacer una visita a alguien
<i>to sweep</i>	.....	barrer
<i>mind you</i>	.....	eso sí
<i>full board</i>	.....	pensión completa

TEMA: THE SQUATTERS



Callum: You must be joking, they haven't put their hands in their pockets once... Oh, **mind you**, they did pay for the pizza when we went out with them the other night.

Lisa: Oh, big deal! That hardly constitutes two weeks **full board** at our place, does it?

Callum: No, of course not! Listen, I promise I'll tell them to get their things together and leave the flat tomorrow, OK?

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



QUESTIONS:

- 1) What does Lisa want Callum to do?

- 2) How long have they been in their flat?

- 3) Where does Callum's friend, George, live?

- 4) What did the Australians do for George?

- 5) What had George told the Australians to do if they were ever in Brighton?

- 6) How long did the Australians say they were going to stay for?

- 7) How long did Callum think they would stay?

- 8) What did the Australians do while Lisa was cleaning the house?

- 9) What did Bruce say to her?

- 10) Is Callum angry about this comment?

- 11) When was the only time the Australians put their hands in their pockets?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 251]



20A 20B TREMÉ

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

- Eric:** Hey Stella! What are you watching? It sounds like it's got a good **soundtrack** whatever it is.
- Stella:** It's *Treme*.
- Eric:** Tremmie? What the hell's that? What does that mean?
- Stella:** Tremé! It's pronounced *Tre-mé*; it's a French word. It's a really famous historic neighbourhood in New Orleans, famous for its marching jazz bands.
- Eric:** [Sarcastic] Ohhh! *Tremé* indeed! Pardon me for breathing! So what is it? A documentary about jazz or something?
- Stella:** No, it's David Simon's new series.
- Eric:** [**Nonplussed**] Right. I suppose at this point I'm supposed **to nod my head** in knowing agreement and pretend I have some idea who this David Simon is.
- Stella:** David Simon was the creator of *The Wire*.
- Eric:** Oh come on! No one can have claimed to have created wire. That's like saying I created metal or wood. What an idiot this David Simon must be! Anyway, isn't it a bit strange that someone who says they created wire should also make a TV show?
- Stella:** *The Wire*, Eric! *The Wire*! It's a famous TV series. It's one of the best TV series of the last ten years; in fact many say it's the best TV series that has ever been made. David Simon was the man behind it... and this show that I'm watching now, *Treme*.
- Eric:** Oh right. Silly old me. You know I don't watch much **telly**. Anyway, what is this obsession that everyone has these days with watching series? I'm getting fed up of going out and hearing people, especially couples, telling me how they're watching some **box set** or other of the latest cool American series and that I simply have to watch it. When was the last time someone made a truly great TV series?
- Stella:** Times have changed since *Starsky and Hutch* and *The A-team* you know Eric. Some TV series are as well made as big Hollywood **blockbusters** these days. And some of them have an epic, novel quality to them.
- Eric:** Well if it's epic novels we're talking about, **I'd rather stick with** Dostoyevsky and Balzac thank you very much!
- Stella:** Alright granddad! Put your slippers on, smoke your pipe and go back to the 1950s!



PISTA 20A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que parece que al fondo se oye el ruido de la tele.

PISTA 20B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

soundtrack	banda sonora
nonplussed	perplejo
to nod one's head	asentir con la cabeza
telly	la tele
box set	colección
blockbuster	súperproducción
I'd rather stick with	prefiero quedarme con
slippers	zapatillas de casa
to give someone a good beating	dar una buena paliza a alguien



- Eric:** Well now that you mention it, I think I will put my **slippers** on and read a good book and actually learn something of interest.
- Stella:** OK granddad, I'll give you a call when it's time for your medicine and your nightly bath!
- Eric:** [Laughs and imitates an old man] Watch your tongue young lady! I wish it were the 1950s, and then I'd be justified in **giving you a good beating!!**

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



QUESTIONS:

- 1) What does Eric say sounds good on the TV show?

- 2) Where is Tremé and what is it famous for?

- 3) Apart from *Tremé*, what other series did David Simon create?

- 4) Why does Eric think that David Simon is an idiot?

- 5) What does Eric say people have an obsession with these days?

- 6) What is he getting fed up of?

- 7) Stella says that times have changed since which two TV series?

- 8) In what way does she compare some TV series with books?

- 9) What would Eric prefer to do instead?

- 10) When does Stella say she will call Eric?

- 11) What politically incorrect comment about the 1950s does Eric jokingly make?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 251]







THE ARGUMENT

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Javier: Are you working, Joanne? Can you concentrate on your work while you're listening to music?

Joanne: Of course, I'm a woman. We're not like you men, we're capable of doing two things at once you know.

Javier: Oh, right, silly me. I forgot about women and their famous multitasking abilities.

Joanne: I would hardly call listening to music and writing an email **multitasking**.

Javier: It's a bit of a lie really though, isn't it? You're not really doing both at the same time are you? I mean you can't truly be appreciating the music, can you?

Joanne: Yes, I can. I am actively enjoying listening to the music.

Javier: I don't believe you. To truly appreciate and I mean to truly **savour** and appreciate something, you have to stop and think about it. If you do that you can't possibly work at the same time. This music you're listening to is just like the wallpaper that surrounds you.

Joanne: The music is **enhancing** my mood. It's helping me to work by creating a pleasant, relaxing atmosphere.

Javier: I wonder how many of the songs' names you can actually remember that you've listened to in the last hour.

Joanne: I still think you men have a genetic deficiency when it comes to listening. Why does it require 100% of your **brainpower** to be able to absorb a piece of information that someone is telling you?

Javier: That's **rubbish**, that's just sexist stereotyping... like saying women can't read maps.

Joanne: No, it's not. How many times has it happened that you haven't remembered something I've told you even though you've said you were listening to me?

Javier: There might be lots of reasons why I don't remember something you've told me, it's not just because I'm a man.

Joanne: Do you know my mum can still cook, talk on the phone and watch her favourite **soap opera** at the same time?

Javier: None of those are particularly difficult tasks though, are they?

Joanne: When you're reading the newspaper or watching a football match, I have to put a loudspeaker to your ear before you begin to hear me!

Javier: [Under his breath] That's because I probably don't want to hear what you have to say most of the time.

Joanne: I'm sorry, what was that?!

PISTA 21A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que parece que al fondo se oye el ruido de la tele.

PISTA 21B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>multitasking</i>	multitarea
<i>to savour</i>	saborear
<i>to enhance</i>	mejorar
<i>brainpower</i>	capacidad intelectual
<i>rubbish</i>	tonterías
<i>soap opera</i>	culebrón

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What reason does Joanne give for being able to work and listen to the music at the same time?

- 2) What does Javier sarcastically say he had forgotten about?

- 3) Why does Javier say it's a bit of a lie?

- 4) What does he compare her experience of listening to music to?

- 5) What does Joanne say that the music does for her?

- 6) What does Javier doubt with regard to the music that she has listened to?

- 7) What does Joanne say that requires 100% of men's brainpower to be able to do?

- 8) What example of sexist stereotyping does Javier give?

- 9) What three things can her mum do at the same time?

- 10) What does Joanne have to do to get Javier's attention if he is reading the newspaper or watching a football match?

- 11) What reason does Javier give for not always being able to hear what Joanne is telling him?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 252]







THE PESSIMIST

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

Emma: When do you get the results of your test back Neil? Do you think it'll come back positive?

Neil: I doubt it.

Emma: Why do you think that? I don't understand why you always have to think so pessimistically about everything.

Neil: I'm not a pessimist, I'm a realist.

Emma: **Not that old chestnut again!** Why do pessimists always say that?

Neil: Well, we can't all be as upbeat and optimistic as you and **see life through rose-coloured glasses**.

Emma: The way you say that makes it sound as though my optimistic outlook on life was in some way **contrived**.

Neil: I didn't say that. I just find it more practical to think on the pessimistic side. It means life throws fewer surprises and disappointments at you.

Emma: Good Lord, where's your joie de vivre? What pleasure is there to be had in being a pessimist who is always right? I'd much rather be an optimist who sometimes gets things wrong, at least we have much more fun along the way.

Neil: You can have fun and be a pess... a realist! They're not incompatible you know.

Emma: Do you know what Bill Clinton said about pessimism?

Neil: I have no idea and as Scarlett O' Hara famously said "...and frankly my dear **I don't give a damn**".

Emma: It was Rhett Butler who said that actually. Anyway, Billy boy Clinton said that pessimism is an excuse for not trying and a guarantee to a personal failure.

Neil: Ha! Now you're giving me lessons on morality from Bill Clinton. Well if he hadn't been so recklessly optimistic, he might not have got caught with his pants down!

Emma: You might be right. I'm sure it's much healthier to think optimistically anyway. All positive attitudes lead to a longer life, of that I'm sure. Do you know that every time you get angry you lose five minutes of your life?

Neil: Where on earth do you get all these ridiculous statistics from?!



PISTA 22A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando en una lavandería y se oye mucho el ruido de las lavadoras.

PISTA 22B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

Not that old chestnut! ¡Ya estamos con la misma historia de siempre!

to see life through rose-coloured glasses verlo todo de color de rosa

contrived artificial

I don't give a damn me importa un bledo

a tenner diez libras/dólares

You've got a cheek! ¡Tienes una cara!

TEMA: THE PESSIMIST



Emma: They're not ridiculous, they're true... some of them anyway! By the way do you think you could lend me **a tenner**?

Neil: A tenner?! **You've got a cheek!** You still owe me five pounds from last week.

Emma: [Laughs] Don't get angry... you know, pessimists are the best people to borrow money from as they never expect to get it back anyway!

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What's Neil waiting for?

- 2) Does Neil describe himself as a pessimist?

- 3) Why does Neil say it's more practical to think pessimistically?

- 4) What does Neil say that we can't all be like?

- 5) Why would Emma rather be an optimist?

- 6) Which two fictional characters does Neil get mixed up?

- 7) What did Bill Clinton have to say about pessimism?

- 8) What does Neil say might not have happened to Bill Clinton if he hadn't been so optimistic?

- 9) What does Emma say leads to a longer life and what takes five minutes off of your life?

- 10) What does Emma ask Neil for?

- 11) Why is Neil surprised?

- 12) Why does Emma say that pessimists are good people to borrow money from?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 252]





WHAT'S YOUR PLAN?

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Basil: So tell me Dom, what are you planning to do next year when you finish university?

Dom: Oh you know me dad; I don't like to plan things too much. I prefer to just **go with the flow**.

Basil: "Going with the flow" is not going to get you a job my lad! You need to set yourself some goals and objectives and have some kind of a plan, no matter how vague.

Dom: Well, I thought I might just travel around for a year and then see what happens after that.

Basil: So what you're telling me is that you're going to **drift aimlessly** for a few years?

Dom: I thought travelling might help me to see things from a different perspective and give me a clearer idea of what I might want to do when I come back.

Basil: OK, fine. I'm not set against the idea of you travelling. I think travelling is a great way of broadening your horizons and opening the mind. It's very important for you to see a bit of the world, but you should also be trying to do stuff along the way. You need to have abilities and skills; things that you can offer future employers.

Dom: I don't think I want to work for anyone. I'm thinking of being an entrepreneur; you know, a **self-made man** like you, dad!

Basil: That's fine. But you know, by the time I was your age I'd already tried my hand in two or three different fields of work. You haven't really **tried your hand at** anything over the last few years, have you?

Dom: Oh come on dad, that's not fair! I've represented the university in football, golf and I've played loads of concerts with my band. Anyway, you told me I wouldn't have to work as long as I concentrated on my studies.

Basil: That's true I suppose. I'm just a little worried that you're not setting your sights high enough. I worry that you're a little too **laidback** for this hard, ruthless world. Being a nice, sociable guy isn't enough to get by on, you know; you need to have ambition and **drive**.

Dom: I'll be fine dad, don't you worry about me. You know I hate the idea of planning and knowing exactly what you're going to do, I mean what's the point of living life if you know exactly what's going to happen?

PISTA 23A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando en una playa y se oye mucho el ruido de las olas.

PISTA 23B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>to go with the flow</i>	dejarse llevar
<i>to drift aimlessly</i>	vagar sin rumbo
<i>self-made man</i>	un hombre que ha llegado a su posición actual por sí mismo
<i>to try your hand at something</i>	probar algo
<i>laidback</i>	tranquilo
<i>drive</i>	empuje
<i>to be stranded</i>	quedar varado
<i>godforsaken</i>	de mala muerte

TEMA: WHAT'S YOUR PLAN?



Basil: Oh, very philosophical. All I'm asking for is that you set yourself some goals. At the very least you need to have some sort of vision, blurry as it may be, of how you want your life to be in five or ten years' time.

Dom: I'm young and bright enough. I just want to have some fun for a couple more years.

Basil: Not at my expense you won't! And you know that time waits for no man. You might be happy floating wherever the tide takes you, but one day you'll wake up and find yourself **stranded** on some **godforsaken**, far away shore and wonder how you got there.

Dom: Wow, look who's the philosophical one now!

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What is it that Basil wants to know?

- 2) What does Dom mean when he says that he prefers to go with the flow?

- 3) What does Basil say that going with the flow is not going to get him?

- 4) What's Dom thinking of doing?

- 5) Why does he think travelling might help him?

- 6) What does his dad say he needs to do apart from travelling?

- 7) Who will Dom work for when he comes back?

- 8) What did Dom do while he was at university?

- 9) What does Basil worry about in relation to his son?

- 10) What does Basil say is all that he's asking his son for?

- 11) What does Basil say might happen to Dom if he just allows himself to float wherever the tide takes him?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 252]





THE STAG BUSINESS

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Lindsey: What ever happened to your mate Stuart?

Mel: Do you mean John Stuart? He was your friend as well, wasn't he? Haven't you heard about him? **He's on the run** in Macau.

Lindsey: What?! Are you being serious?

Mel: No, I'm not. But his story is an interesting one all the same. He moved to the Far East about six years ago and now runs a successful **stag** business in Macau.

Lindsey: OK, two questions. Firstly, what the hell is a stag business? Secondly, where on earth is Macau? And thirdly, is this the same John Stuart we're talking about who couldn't organise a **piss-up** in a **brewery**?

Mel: You never were much good at maths, were you? That was three questions. Macau is a province of China that used to be a Portuguese colony. It's like a Portuguese version of Hong Kong. I think it was handed back to the Chinese in 1999.

Lindsey: The things you learn, eh? So this stag business then... Does he hunt and sell stags or does he organise **stag parties**?

Mel: Yup, he organises stag parties and stag holidays. He was the first person to set up a company like that in Macau.

Lindsey: But why Macau?

Mel: Don't you know that Macau is the Las Vegas of the Far East? In fact, I think I'm right in saying that its casinos make more money each year on **gambling** than Las Vegas does. The Chinese love to gamble, you know.

Lindsey: Wow! And he's making a decent living from that, is he?

Mel: A very decent living indeed. I think he gets a lot of customers from Australia and India.

Lindsey: And what's Macau like? Is it a nice place to live?

Mel: I think it's a bit of a **dump**, to be honest. All they have there really are the casinos, but he's told me that he just wants to **make a killing** for a few years and then come back to England.

Lindsey: And does he organise **hen parties** too? You know my friend Katrina is getting married next summer, don't you?

Mel: I think the kind of parties that Stuart organises are more suitable for men... Not unless your friend Katrina wants to spend a lot of time gambling in casinos and being surrounded by beautiful oriental women!

PISTA 24A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando en un restaurante muy ruidoso.

PISTA 24B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

he's on the run	él ha huido de la justicia
stag	ciervo
piss-up	juerga de borrachera
brewery	cervecería
stag party	fiesta de despedida de solteros
gambling	juegos de apuestas
dump	poblacho
to make a killing	forrarse
hen party	fiesta de despedida de solteras

TEMA: THE STAG BUSINESS

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What is it that Lindsey wants to know?

- 2) What does Mel say at first happened to Stuart?

- 3) When did Stuart move to Macau?

- 4) Why does Mel say that Lindsey was never any good at maths?

- 5) What three things does Mel tell her about Macau?

- 6) What does Stuart's company do in Macau?

- 7) Why is Macau known as the Las Vegas of the Far East?

- 8) What do the Chinese love to do, according to Mel?

- 9) Does Stuart want to stay for a long time in Macau?

- 10) What does Lindsey want to know if Stuart also organises?

- 11) Why does Mel say that the types of parties that Stuart organises might not be suitable for Katrina's hen party?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 252]





THE CALL

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Chris: [Excited] Hey, check this out! I got a missed call!

Brad: [Sarcastic] Is that so? Well, I guess **that calls for a celebration!**

Chris: No need to make fun of me, you know. I'm sure it's a call from Jenny, the girl I met Friday night. I kept ringing her over the weekend, but she wouldn't answer, so I figured something or someone must have been keeping her from ringing me back.

Brad: [Sarcastic] Yeah, aha, someone must have kept her locked in a room all weekend just to keep her from picking up the phone and ringing you back... Well, can't you see who the call is from?

Chris: Nope. In fact, it shows as an unknown number.

Brad: Mmm, really? That doesn't look too good, mate. Why wouldn't she want you to know she called if she were actually interested?

Chris: Dunno. She might not want me to know it was her in order not to embarrass herself if I didn't pick up. Girls do that, you see. So I think I'll **give it a go** and just call back! [Starts dialling]

Brad: Hold it right there!

Chris: Why on earth should I? Oh, I know, you're thinking about how terribly wrong it all went with my previous **one-night stand** and you want to keep me from getting heart-broken again, don't you, Brad? Do you keep track of my love life?

Brad: Not quite, Chris. I was actually worried about the fact that we're standing in the middle of a petrol station. You know you're not supposed to use your mobile phone at petrol stations, right?

Chris: Are you serious? Do you really think I'm going to set the place on fire? Try and keep calm, will you?

Brad: [Walking away] Right, then, **suit yourself!** But **you're on your own**, OK? Keep me posted if you **make it**. I'm out of here!

Chris: Come on, Brad! Where are you going? Don't you need a ride home anymore?

Brad: [From a distance] Nah, I'm all right, thanks! I'll walk, I need to keep fit anyway!

Chris: [To himself] All right, then, let's see about this Jenny girl! And, what the heck, if I do set fire to the place at least I'll keep warm, that's for sure!

PISTA 25A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando en una gasolinera junto a la carretera.

PISTA 25B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

that calls for a celebration eso hay que celebrarlo
to give something a go intentar algo
one-night stand ligue de una noche
suit yourself como quieras, como lo veas
you're on your own ahí te quedas
to make it sobrevivir

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What was Chris so excited about?

- 2) What was Brad's reaction to Chris' excitement?

- 3) Did Chris know why Jenny hadn't called him all weekend?

- 4) Could Chris see who the call was from?

- 5) Did Brad think that was a good thing?

- 6) Why did Chris think she might not want him to know it was her on the phone?

- 7) What did Chris decide to do then?

- 8) Had he had a good experience with his previous one-night stand?

- 9) What did he say Brad wanted to keep him from?

- 10) What did Brad ask Chris to do if he made it?

- 11) Did Brad want a ride home?

- 12) What did he say he'd do and why?

- 13) How did Chris figure he'd keep if he set the petrol station on fire?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en las páginas 252 + 253]







A COMPLICATED MORNING

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

Alex: Hi, Andrew, it's Alex. I'm so sorry, but I'm going to be late for class. It's just been one thing after another this morning. It was my anniversary last night and I forgot to set my alarm clock before I went to bed, so I overslept. Then I had problems with the hot water. I can't believe that this morning of all mornings the boiler's **on the blink**...

Andrew: [Interrupts] Alex, Alex! Hang on. Slow down.

Alex: Sorry! Sorry! It's just that I'm running late and this has never happened before and I'm panicking and...

Andrew: Alex! Alex! Stop for a second. How late is late?

Alex: [Pauses] Erm... I'm not sure yet. It's just that...

Andrew: Stop! Where are you now?

Alex: I'm at Sol. The metro's broken down and I tried to **grab** a taxi, but there's road works everywhere so I decided to walk...

Andrew: [Impatient] What time, Alex?

Alex: And then I tripped and fell into a **manhole** and **twisted** my ankle...

Andrew: An **ETA**, please!

Alex: I'm running to work. I've never done it before, so I don't know how long it will take... Maybe half an hour? But then I've got to **factor in** the seven and a half kilos of books I'm carrying... I don't know! 35 minutes, maybe?

Andrew: Fine. I'm hanging up now. I'll see you when you get here.

[Running, doors opening]

Andrew: Alex, you're 47 minutes late. I'm afraid we're going to have to let you go.

Alex: Please! Please! I'm begging you! Please don't fire me! I'll never forget again...

Andrew: I'm afraid my decision is final. You've let us down, you've let your students down and you've let yourself down. It's not good enough. We cannot serve the English language needs of the Spanish nation with this **slap-dash** attitude. Maybe this will teach you a lesson.



PISTA 26A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando al teléfono mientras uno está en la calle.

PISTA 26B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>on the blink</i>	roto (coloquial RU)
<i>to grab</i>	coger (rápidamente)
<i>manhole</i>	pozo
<i>to twist (an ankle)</i>	torcer (el tobillo)
<i>eta</i>	abreviatura de " expected time of arrival " ('hora de llegada estimada')
<i>to factor in</i>	tener en cuenta
<i>slap-dash</i>	chapucero/a
<i>April Fool's Day</i>	Día de los Santos Inocentes

TEMA: A COMPLICATED MORNING



- Alex:** But where will I find work?! We're in the middle of a recession! I have a family to support! And my wife's pregnant! How on earth are we going to survive?! You can't do this to me!!
- Andrew:** I can and I will. You are no longer an employee, which means you're trespassing. Security will escort you from the premises.
- Alex:** Please!!! I promise it'll never ever happen again! I'll sit up all night just in case I don't remember to set my alarm. Nooo!!!
- Andrew:** Alright, I'm kidding! It was only a prank! **April Fool!**

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) Why is Alex ringing Andrew?

- 2) What happened at home to cause this situation?

- 3) Where is Alex when he calls Andrew?

- 4) What three things have happened since Alex left the house?

- 5) How is he planning to get to work?

- 6) How long does Alex estimate that the journey will take?

- 7) How late is he?

- 8) What is the consequence of his lateness?

- 9) Why is Alex so worried about losing his job?

- 10) Does Alex leave voluntarily?

- 11) How does he have to leave?

- 12) What does Andrew tell him in the end?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 253]





THE SECRET

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Nicole: Eugene! Let me help you with the coffees!

Eugene: Don't worry! I promised I'd bring the coffees this time! Let me sit by the window, though, I'm a little hot.

Nicole: Let me open the window fully to let some air in, it's so stuffy in here! Oh, wait! It says here that you aren't allowed to open the windows.

Eugene: Let's sit by the door, then. Hey, can you see that guy sitting over there at the other table? He's looking over at you! Why don't you let him sit with us?

Nicole: I noticed him before. He gives me **the creeps**. Don't let him sit here.

Eugene: Fine. Oh, dear! He's coming over! Let's get out of here! Let me get the bill.

Nicole: No, let's stay! I like this place! [The man from the other table approaches] Sorry sir, this seat is taken.

Eugene: That told him!

Nicole: He won't be bothering us again! Oh, yes, let me tell you a secret. I've met a guy and I really like him. His name is Pedro.

Eugene: Oh, please! How many times have I told you, Nicole? You shouldn't tell me any secrets! I always **let the cat out of the bag**!

Nicole: Fair enough. I guess it's not a big secret, though. I'll let you know more about Pedro if things get more serious.

Eugene: Don't let yourself get too involved too quickly, Nicole! I know you! The more you like a guy, the more you allow yourself to fall!

Nicole: I've learned my lessons from the past. I'm not letting myself get too close to him. Anyway, I've only known him for two weeks. I'm not going to lose my head over him.

Eugene: Not yet, anyway!

Nicole: I have no plans to do so either!

You're a fine one to talk! Remember when you allowed **the wool to be pulled over your eyes** when you were going out with Sam? She was married and everyone knew that she was **leading you on**, making you believe that she was going to leave her husband for you, and that one ended in tears.

PISTA 27A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que Nicole y Eugene están hablando en una cafetería ¡y es la hora del desayuno en España!

PISTA 27B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>the creeps</i>	escalofríos
<i>to let the cat out of the bag</i>	revelar un secreto
<i>You're a fine one to talk!</i>	¡Mira quién habla!
<i>to pull the wool over one's eyes</i>	no dejarle ver a alguien la realidad
<i>to lead on</i>	engañar



Eugene: Well, let my experience be a lesson to you! Anyway, I'm still allowed to give you advice even if I've made mistakes in the past.

Nicole: So am I. Let's make a deal. No matter how many mistakes we make, we can still give each other advice!

Eugene: Deal. Let's get the bill and go back to the office.

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What did Nicole offer to do for Eugene?

- 2) What did Eugene want Nicole to let him do when he was feeling a little hot?

- 3) What was the problem with the window?

- 4) What did Eugene say when the man was approaching their table?

- 5) What did Nicole want to tell Eugene?

- 6) Why can't Nicole tell Eugene any secrets?

- 7) What did Nicole insist on telling Eugene at a later stage?

- 8) What was Eugene's advice for Nicole?

- 9) What has Nicole learned from the past?

- 10) What did Sam do to Eugene when she was going out with him?

- 11) What is Eugene allowed to give Nicole despite his own mistakes in the past?

- 12) What's the deal that Nicole and Eugene made?

- 13) What was the final thing that Eugene suggested doing?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 253]



28A 28B CHEATING

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Andi: Hey, Gavin, how are you going? I was sorry to hear about you and Bea.

Gavin: Oh, so you've found out that we broke up as well, have you?

Andi: Gavin, everybody found out about it... Or at least all of your friends on Friendbook did. **I take it that** you're aware of Bea's... Mmm... Less than **complimentary** comments that she posted about you on your Friendbook wall.

Gavin: You mean the thing about how I am a... how did she put it now? "A lying, **cheating**, good-for-nothing **scumbag** whose massive ego compensates for his complete lack of personality".

Andi: [Laughs] Sorry, I don't mean to laugh, but you have to admit that that is pretty funny.

Gavin: Oh, yeah, it's hilarious. I can hardly contain myself. Don't forget the thing about me "... having breath like a camel that's just eaten a bucket of rotten cabbage".

Andi: [Laughs again] Now that's funny. I mean, it's pretty creative as far as insults go.

Gavin: Oh, great. Let's give her the Nobel Prize for literature, why don't we?

Andi: I wouldn't worry about it; none of your friends think that it's true. Well, the "lying, cheating" part is true, isn't it? Everybody knows that. But nobody thinks you have a massive ego and nobody but Bea has noticed your... medical condition... and I'm standing pretty close to you!

Gavin: Yes, thank you, Andi. I think that's quite enough.

Andi: Anyway, how did she find out that you were with another woman? Or should I say other women?

Gavin: She found out because she looked through my Internet search history.

Andi: Oh, that's an amateur error, if you don't mind me saying so. Anyway, I thought you were really careful with that kind of stuff. Didn't you tell me once that you deleted your Internet search history every day?

Gavin: Yeah, on my **laptop** I do. But I don't always remember to do it with my phone; that's how she found out, she went through all my messages and photos too one night when I fell asleep.

PISTA 28A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando en medio del campo y se oye mucho viento.

PISTA 28B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>I take it that...</i>	me imagino que...
<i>complimentary</i>	elogioso
<i>to cheat on (cheating)</i>	engañar a alguien (ser infiel)
<i>scumbag</i>	cabrón
<i>laptop</i>	ordenador portátil
<i>Tell me about it!</i>	¡A mí me lo vas a contar!
<i>dating site</i>	página web de citas
<i>a club</i>	una discoteca



Andi: Ouch! That'll teach you to be more careful, won't it?

Gavin: **Tell me about it!** New technologies, eh! Who needs them? My girlfriend found out that I was cheating on her via my mobile and then publicly humiliates me via Friendbook.

Andi: Don't complain too much. Without Internet you wouldn't have met Bea or all those other ladies that you meet on these naughty adult **dating sites** of yours.

Gavin: They're not naughty adult dating sites as you call them; they're perfectly normal dating sites. Everybody does it these days; it's no different from meeting someone in a bar or **a club**. You should try it, Andi, you might actually get l... I mean, meet someone yourself!

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What is it that Andi has found out about?

- 2) How did she and all Gavin's friends find out about it?

- 3) Bea called Gavin a lying, cheating scumbag. What does this mean?

- 4) What does Bea compare Gavin's breath to?

- 5) What does Gavin suggest that they should give to Bea for her creativity?

- 6) Why does Andi say that Gavin shouldn't worry?

- 7) What does Andi say that is true about Bea's post about Gavin?

- 8) How did Bea find out that Gavin was cheating?

- 9) What else did Bea see on his phone?

- 10) Why is Gavin angry about new technologies?

- 11) Why does Andi say that the new technologies are not all bad for Gavin?

- 12) What does Gavin say that Internet dating sites are no different from?

- 13) What does Gavin suggest that Andi should do and why?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 253]





THE FAVOURITE PROGRAM

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



- Charlotte:** Hey, Bertie, did you see last night's episode of *House*?
- Bertie:** No, I missed it; I had to go out for dinner with my daughter and my **soon-to-be** son-in-law.
- Charlotte:** But I thought you loved *House* and never missed an episode.
- Bertie:** I wouldn't usually miss it **for the world**. But it was quite an important dinner and I couldn't get out of it. What happened in it anyway?
- Charlotte:** Well, I'm not going to tell you what happened, am I?! I imagine you recorded it, didn't you?
- Bertie:** I haven't recorded anything on TV for years; not since my wife threw out our old VHS recorder. We've only got a DVD player these days and I wouldn't have a clue how to record on that.
- Charlotte:** You should get yourself one of these new set-top boxes that can record a whole series at the press of a button.
- Bertie:** I'm sorry, I haven't understood a word of what you just said... I should get myself a set-top what?
- Charlotte:** I'm no technology expert either and I'm not sure what the system is called exactly, but they're these boxes you can get with cable TV or digital TV packages. All you have to do to record a program is press the red button and the system does the rest for you.
- Bertie:** What? And I don't have to program the machine in advance or anything?
- Charlotte:** Apparently not. And the beauty of it is that you can record a whole series of your favourite show just by pressing one button as well.
- Bertie:** Wow, sounds too good to be true.
- Charlotte:** Well, listen to this then... There's this other **feature** where if you're watching **a live football match, say**, you can press the pause button, go and have a cup of tea or a shower or whatever and then come back and continue watching the game where you left it.
- Bertie:** But how does that work? Isn't it a little rude on the other viewers? Won't they mind if I press the pause button?
- Charlotte:** Bertie, you don't pause the program for the whole nation! Everything is stored in the magic box I mentioned before. You'll never have to miss any of your favourite programs again.

PISTA 29A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando en un hipódromo.

PISTA 29B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escucharla conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

soon-to-be	el/la que pronto será
for the world	por nada del mundo
feature	característica
a live football match, say	digamos que un partido de fútbol en directo
to get my hands on	conseguir, pillarse
to be slow on the uptake	ser un poco corto

TEMA: THE FAVOURITE PROGRAM



- Bertie:** Is it really that easy to operate? I'll have to **get my hands on** one of them.
- Charlotte:** Hang on a second... Did you say your soon-to-be son-in-law?!
- Bertie:** You're **a bit slow on the uptake**, aren't you? It took you a while to react to that. Yup, who would have believed it, my little Maggie getting married to Jack.
- Charlotte:** How do you feel about having that Jack as your son-in-law?
- Bertie:** Well, to be perfectly honest, I'd rather she was getting married to Dr Gregory House!

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What did Bertie miss last night?

- 2) Why did he miss it?

- 3) Why couldn't he record it?

- 4) According to Charlotte, what can these new set-top boxes do?

- 5) What do these set-top boxes come with?

- 6) Why is the recording system so easy?

- 7) What is the special feature she mentions in relation to watching football matches?

- 8) Why does Bertie think this feature is rude?

- 9) What hasn't Charlotte fully realised during the course of their conversation?

- 10) How does Bertie feel about his daughter getting married to Jack?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 253]







THE ACCOUNTANT

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



- Jon:** Hey, Clara, good to see you again. How are things?
- Clara:** Oh, you know, not too bad, not too bad. **Mustn't grumble** and all that.
- Jon:** I should say I've just finished doing your **annual tax returns** and you'd have to admit that all in all it's been a pretty good year for you! Crisis? What crisis?!
- Clara:** I know... That's why I say that I mustn't grumble. I've got more business than I can handle and I've developed a good patient list by **word of mouth**; it seems that loads of people have been needing a physiotherapist lately. I guess that there must be a lot of stress out there.
- Jon:** And I'd say things are going to get a lot worse before they get better... How's your husband and your kid? Mateo's the name of the little one, isn't it?
- Clara:** That's right. They're both fine. He really takes after his father; he's a real **chip off the old block**.
- Jon:** Although, thankfully, he has your looks! And how's the house hunting going?
- Clara:** To be honest, it's a bloody nightmare. We spent ages looking for a place and then when we finally found somewhere that we liked, the bank is giving us problems to get the mortgage. It's hardly like we've asked them for 100%. We've only asked for 60% and you wouldn't believe the amount of hoops they're trying to make us jump through.
- Jon:** Yeah, it's crazy, especially when you consider that you've both got steady jobs with a good income... Although, hang on, I might have just the solution for you! Wasn't one of your patients the president of a bank or something? Didn't you treat him for a bad back?
- Clara:** That's right, Paco Lopez of the Federal United Bank. He'd been suffering a bad back for years and I put it right for him. He was delighted.
- Jon:** Well, it's time to **cash in your chips**! Give him a call; ask him to put in a good word for you at your local branch of the F.U.Bank.

PISTA 30A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que al fondo de la conversación se oye el ruido de una obra.

PISTA 30B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

mustn't grumble	no me puedo quejar
annual tax return	declaración de la renta
word of mouth	de boca en boca
a chip off the old block	de tal palo tal astilla
to cash in your chips	canjear tus fichas
to bend over backwards for someone	hacer lo imposible por alguien
so to speak	por así decirlo
there's no harm in asking!	por pedir no se pierde nada
slot	hueco (en horarios, etc.)



- Clara:** Wow! That would be a bit cheeky asking him for that, don't you think?
- Jon:** Of course not! You solved his back problem; he'll be happy to **bend over backwards for you, so to speak!**
- Clara:** I suppose you're right; **there's no harm in asking.**
- Jon:** Actually, speaking of bad backs, I could do with asking you for an appointment as well. How's your schedule looking?
- Clara:** It's a bit chock-a-block at the moment... But I'll do my best to find you a nice **slot** and fit you into my tight schedule.
- Jon:** Mmm. That's my Clara!

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What has Jon just finished doing?

- 2) How has Clara developed a good patient list?

- 3) Why does she think that loads of people have been needing a physiotherapist lately?

- 4) What's Clara's child's name?

- 5) What question does Jon ask in reference to houses?

- 6) How much have they asked for in their mortgage?

- 7) Why does Jon say that the bank's attitude is crazy?

- 8) What special client of Clara's does Jon refer to?

- 9) What's Clara's first reaction to Jon's suggestion?

- 10) What does Jon ask Clara for at the end of the conversation?

- 11) What is Clara's schedule like?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en las páginas 253 + 254]



NEIGHBOURS

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

- Sam:** [Rings Lily, his next door neighbour] Hey, Lily, fancy a cuppa?
- Lily:** Sorry, Sam, I didn't get that. Did you just ask me if I felt like having a cup of tea?
- Sam:** That's right.
- Lily:** Oh, I'd love one, thanks! I'll be right over!
- [Both of them looking out Sam's window]
- Lily:** No offence, Sam, but don't you think it's about time you mowed your lawn? You're not much of a gardener, are you?
- Sam:** Well, no, I wouldn't say I am. Craig was the one with the **green fingers** and the one that did everything around the house, mind you. But yeah, as you say, the lawn does need mowing.
- Lily:** You might've asked him to do something about the **skirting board** in the hall before he moved out. Can't you see most of it's come off?
- Sam:** [Reluctantly] I know. So many things need to be done around here...
- Lily:** Does he still owe you two months' worth of rent?
- Sam:** No, he actually settled all his debts with me before **taking off**. **What's it to you**, anyway? It sounds as if you were **holding a grudge against** him for some reason.
- Lily:** I just feel that people that abuse other people's kindness need to be told not everything in this world's only theirs to enjoy.
- Sam:** You needn't worry, Lils. I'm sure he's aware of that. Besides, I've always thought of him as one of my friends and, a friend in need is a friend indeed, right?
- Lily:** [Getting a bit worked up] Oh! I couldn't agree more. So, where was he in your hour of need?
- Sam:** What do you mean by my hour of need? When Antonia dumped me? I didn't even know the guy back then, for goodness' sake!
- Lily:** [Looking out the window again and annoyed by the noise] Have they built an airport out there **overnight** or something? It sounds like a hundred planes have landed on your backyard in the past few minutes!
- Sam:** [Walking towards the window] An airport? That's all I needed. Let me see...
- Lily:** Oh my God. Those are not airplanes, Sam. Those look like flying saucers to me!
- Sam:** They sure do! Shall we go say hi?

PISTA 31A **RUIDO DE FONDO**

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando y se oye el ruido de algo que parecen ser aviones aterrizando.

PISTA 31B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>to have green fingers</i>	dársele bien la jardinería
<i>skirting board</i>	rodapiés
<i>to take off</i>	pirarse, largarse
<i>What's it to you?</i>	¿Y a ti qué más te da?
<i>to hold a grudge against</i>	guardarle rencor a
<i>someone</i>	alguien
<i>overnight</i>	de la noche a la mañana

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What does Sam ask Lily at first?

- 2) Does she think he's good at gardening?

- 3) How does she tell him that?

- 4) What does Lily want to know about Sam's former housemate?

- 5) How does Sam think Lily feels about Craig?

- 6) Does she feel that way?

- 7) What does she say?

- 8) What did someone named Antonia do to Sam?

- 9) What did the noise that'd been going on sound like to Lily?

- 10) Did Sam need an airport in his backyard?

- 11) How can you tell, apart from the obvious?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 254]







THE MATERNITY WARD

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Bert: [Panting] Hi! Excuse me! Is this the maternity ward?

Ernie: It sure is! Is your wife having a baby?

Bert: [Nervous] That's what I was told on the phone. I got a call from the hospital and just flew in from Boston after waiting for my plane to take off for at least three and a half hours! I thought I'd never make it!

Ernie: Here, you can check on the screen up there if your wife's name comes up. If it does, it means she's going into the **delivery room**.

Bert: All right, thanks! Oh, oh, oh! There she is! I can start **pacing the floor** now, can't I? Isn't that what fathers-to-be do while they wait? God, I hope it'll be all right.

Ernie: Why shouldn't it? Do you expect there to be any problems with the delivery?

Bert: **I should hope not!** This is by far the most expensive hospital in the country! And, well, the **midwife** said there was nothing to worry about. Ever since Sharon found out she was expecting, her pregnancy has been as smooth as they come.

Ernie: Good for you! Hang on! My wife's name's come up on the screen... Three times! I think she's having triplets!

Bert: Hey! Well done! **Beer's on you** then! I'm Bert by the way.

Ernie: Yeah, I'm Ernie. I just can't believe it! I'd been waiting for this moment all my life, and the one thing I didn't expect was a TV screen to break the news. I mean, I was hoping for something just **a tad** more memorable.

Bert: I getcha. You're the romaaaaantic type. You didn't strike me as a sensitive kind of man when I first saw you though. **What with** the leather pants, all those chains around your neck and the spiky blue hair, I was expecting you to be more on the wild side, to be honest.

Ernie: Well, with three newborns in the house, I'll be on the wild side soon!

PISTA 32A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando y se oye de fondo a unos recién nacidos llorando.

PISTA 32B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>delivery room</i>	paritorio
<i>to pace the floor</i>	andar de arriba abajo
<i>I should hope not</i>	más vale que no
<i>midwife</i>	comadrona
<i>beer's on you</i>	tú pagas las cervezas
<i>a tad</i>	un poquito
<i>what with... and...</i>	entre... y...

TEMA: THE MATERNITY WARD

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What's the first thing Bert wanted to know?

- 2) Did Bert think he'd be late for his child's birth?

- 3) How long had he had to wait until his plane took off?

- 4) What did it mean if a woman's name came up on the screen?

- 5) What do fathers-to-be do, according to Bert?

- 6) What did Bert say to Ernie when he asked him if he expected there to be any problems with the delivery? How could you say that in Spanish?

- 7) Had Sharon had a difficult pregnancy? How had it been?

- 8) What did Ernie think the reason why his wife's name came up on the screen three times was?

- 9) What was the one thing Ernie didn't expect about this moment in his life?

- 10) What did Ernie look like?

- 11) Why did Ernie say he'd be on the wild side soon?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 254]







THE COMPLAINT

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



[Noise of someone knocking at the door]

Jamie: [Sarcastic] Oh great, it's you. What do you want?

Maureen: I've come to complain about the noise you were making last night and to warn you that the other neighbours and I are not going to **put up with** it any more.

Jamie: What noise?

Maureen: What do you mean what noise?! You had your **music blasting** till the early hours and then when it finally stopped your girlfriend started screaming; I thought she was being killed.

Jamie: No, no, she was having a good time. I can assure you of that.

Maureen: Well, whatever. But I don't think it's really necessary for anyone to scream like that... it sounded a bit false to me to be honest.

Jamie: I'll thank you for not being so personal, and frankly, whatever noises we make are none of your business.

Maureen: Of course they're my business. Your bedroom is directly above mine; I hear every noise you make, even when you get up to go to the bathroom in the middle of the night.

Jamie: So you want me to stop going to the toilet if I have to go in the middle of the night, do you?

Maureen: No, it would just be nice if you started to show a little consideration towards your neighbours. You know, my husband and I still... **How can I put it?** We still "have fun" and we don't feel the need to wake up all the whole building by screaming like some hysterical chimpanzees.

Jamie: [Laughs] I don't think you know the meaning of the word "fun". I bet The Beatles were still together the last time you had some fun.

Maureen: How dare you! You insolent **yob**! Listen, I've spoken to a number of the neighbours in this building and they're all agreed that the next time you have a party or... an orgy... or whatever it is that you degenerates get up to, we shall be calling the police!

Jamie: I don't think I can be arrested for making my girlfriend happy and I have no problem submitting my music to an environmental decibel check. Listen, if you really want to live in silence, why don't you move to the country or go back to the convent where you came from?

PISTA 33A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando y se oye el ruido de otro vecino que está ensayando con su saxofón.

PISTA 33B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

to put up with	tolerar
music blasting	música a todo volumen
how can I put it?	¿cómo lo diría?
yob	gamberro
needless	innecesario
mark my words	acuérdate bien de lo que te digo

TEMA: THE COMPLAINT



Maureen: You know that your freedom stops where the freedom of others starts.

Jamie: Oh, that's very profound. Have you just read that in a book or something? You know I really don't have time to stand here and have this needless argument. If you want to call the police, go ahead, that's fine by me. [He bangs the door closed]

Maureen: [Shouting] **Mark my words;** you haven't heard the end of this, young man!

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) Why is Maureen knocking on Jamie's door?

- 2) What noise is Maureen referring to?

- 3) What does Maureen say she thought was happening to Jamie's girlfriend?

- 4) Why does Maureen hear all the noises that Jamie and his girlfriend make?

- 5) What noise does she say she can hear in the middle of the night?

- 6) What does Maureen say that she and her husband still do?

- 7) When does Jamie say was the last time Maureen had some fun?

- 8) What have Maureen and the other neighbours agreed to?

- 9) What does Jamie suggest Maureen do if she wants to live in silence?

- 10) Does Jamie seem worried about Maureen calling the police?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 254]



34A 34B THE BULLY

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Charlie: Kenny, you idiot! Look, you've **burst** our football. What are we going to do now for the rest of our lunch break? It looks like there's nothing else for us to do but to go and annoy all the other kids. Look, there's that **dork** Billie and all his loser friends!

Billie: [Sees Charlie coming] Oh no, I smell trouble! Here come the year-four bullies, Charlie and Kenny. They're heading right for us. Quick, put your sweets and stickers away!

Charlie: Well, well, well, what do we have here then? If it isn't my old friend Billie and his little **willy**. Billie! You big loser you! What are you and the loser gang up to then, eh?

Billie: [Nervously] Oh... Hi Charlie... Kenny... erm... good to see you again. May I mention how well you're both looking on this beautiful spring morning?

Charlie: [Mocking Billie's accent] "May I mention how well you look...?" Who speaks like that? Why do you have to speak like some **posh nerd** all the time, Billie?!

Billie: [Laughs nervously] Oh, I'm just using the Queen's English Charlie as it's supposed to be spoken.

Charlie: What do you reckon, Kenny? Shall we hit them now or shall we **nick** all their sweets and stickers first?

Billie: What sweets and stickers, Charlie? I have no idea what you're talking about.

Charlie: Don't give me that rubbish. We saw you **swapping** you stickers and we know you've always got sweets at lunchtime. If you just give them to us now with **no fuss**, it will all be a lot less painful for you.

Billie: We're not going to give you anything and if you insist on persecuting us in this beastly manner, we'll be left with no choice but to tell the teachers.

Charlie: "Insist on persecu... beastly manner" You what?! What are you talking about? Come on Kenny, let's give it to them!

[Sound of a scuffle and grunts]

Billie: Hey, give me back my sweets and stickers!

Charlie: You know what, Billie? I'm in a generous mood today, so I think I'm going to give them away to all the other kids. [Shouts] Who wants sweets and stickers?! Come and get your free sweets and stickers!

PISTA 34A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que se oye el ruido que hacen muchos niños al jugar y chillar en un patio del colegio.

PISTA 34B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

to burst	reventar
dork	pringado/a
willy	la colita
posh nerd	empollón pijo/empollona
to nick	pija
to swap	robar
no fuss	intercambiar
Let's get out of here!	sin jaleo
	¡Larguémonos de aquí!



Billie: Give them back to me! I'll get my dad on to you. He's bigger than your dad and he knows karate!

Charlie: [Laughs] I'll give you karate! I'll give you karate, right in the face! Quick, Kenny, here come the teachers! Throw their stuff on the floor and **let's get out of here!**

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) Why does Charlie call Kenny and idiot?

- 2) Charlie says there's nothing else to do but what?

- 3) What does Billie tell his friends to do when he sees Charlie and Kenny coming towards them?

- 4) What does Billie say to Charlie and Kenny?

- 5) What does Charlie think of the way Kenny talks?

- 6) What is it that Charlie wants from Kenny?

- 7) What does Billie say he will do if Charlie and Kenny insist on persecuting them?

- 8) Why does Charlie say that he is in a generous mood?

- 9) What does Billie threaten to do if Charlie doesn't give him back his sweets?

- 10) What comparison does Billie make between his dad and Charlie's dad?

- 11) Why do Charlie and Kenny throw Billie's stuff on the floor?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 254]







LIFE IN MADRID

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Jamie: Oh hey, I didn't see you there! [Jokingly] You must've been hiding!

Alison: Jamie! Hi! No, I was just reaching down because I dropped my phone!

Long time no see! I thought I might have seen you at the train station, but I thought it couldn't be you! What are you doing back in the UK? Aren't you supposed to be in Spain?

Jamie: Ah, you should've looked again properly! I'm here on holidays and I'm on my way to see my aunt who lives near Sheffield. What about you?

Alison: I moved to Sheffield a while ago, didn't I tell you? I just went down to London to get the rest of my stuff.

Jamie: We really ought to talk more often. **How come** you moved to Sheffield?

Alison: I got a job with a graphic design company! Just a few weeks after our graduation they called me offering me a part-time job. I had never heard of them, but I think they must have seen my blog.

Jamie: Congrats! You must've been **thrilled**! Do you think they might **take you on** full-time at some point? And what's the work like? How are you getting on with everyone?

Alison: I don't know, I don't want to get **my hopes up**. It's a start-up company and the work is really interesting! Almost all of my workmates are pretty much my age which makes it even more fun. But you never know, it's quite a small business and, should we lose one of our important clients, I might end up on the street!

Jamie: Well, **fingers crossed** you won't!

Alison: But enough about me! **How's Madrid treating you?** You must be having an awesome time!

Jamie: **You bet!** It's a fascinating city. I thought I'd only go there to teach English for a few months, but now I think I might stay there for another year. Why don't you come visit me some time? You ought to get to know it yourself!

Alison: You're right! I've been to Madrid once many years ago, but only for a weekend. I remember that train station with all these plants and turtles in it. Oh, and the main square – Plaza Mayor, is it? – and of course Sol. That must be the place where they have a big New Year's celebration right?

PISTA 35A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando mientras ven unos fuegos artificiales.

PISTA 35B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>Long time no see!</i>	¡Cuánto tiempo!
<i>How come...?</i>	¿Cómo es que...?
<i>thrilled</i>	contentísimo/a
<i>to take somebody on</i>	contratar
<i>to get my hopes up</i>	hacerme ilusiones
<i>fingers crossed</i>	crucemos los dedos
<i>How's Madrid treating you?</i>	¿Qué tal te va en Madrid?
<i>You bet!</i>	¡Que no te quepa duda!
<i>taking in the buzz</i>	disfrutando del ambiente urbano
<i>to get time off</i>	librar
<i>to catch up with</i>	ponerse al día, reencontrarse



Jamie: Yes, you're right... You must have seen all the typical places of interest, which are great, but there's so much more to see. You should have seen me the first week or so when I was there – all I did was walk around the city and explore the different neighbourhoods, **taking in** the unique **buzz** of the city. Not to mention the great nightlife!

Alison: I can imagine! You've always been a bit of an explorer. Actually, I might **get some time off** in July. Do you think you might still be living there?

Jamie: Yes, I should still be in Madrid in July. I'd love you to come over! ... But now I think I must go back to my seat, I need to get off at the next stop. Was lovely to **catch up with** you!

Alison: True, we should get to Sheffield soon now, you'd better go get your things! Keep in touch!

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) Why didn't Jamie see Alison straight away?

- 2) Where were they going and why?

- 3) What kind of job did Alison get in Sheffield?

- 4) How did the company find out about Alison's work?

- 5) Why doesn't Alison want to get her hopes up regarding full-time employment?

- 6) How long does Jamie think he might stay in Madrid?

- 7) What does Alison remember from her last visit to Madrid?

- 8) What did Jamie do in his first week or so in Madrid?

- 9) When and on what condition will Alison visit Jamie in Madrid?

- 10) Why does Jamie have to get back to his seat?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en las páginas 254 + 255]





DOSSING AROUND

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



James: Claire, are you up for a couple of beers?

Claire: What are you on about?! It's the middle of the day, what if the **big cheese** sees us?

James: Who? George? Haven't you heard? He's off for the whole week. Come on, live a little! We can be down the back stairs and out to the bar in the blink of an eye. No one will miss us.

Claire: Alright, alright. Stop **banging on about** it. Let's go.

[Two hours later at the bar]

Claire: You know, you were right. This was a good idea. I needed to chill out for a while. I've been under serious pressure to nail down the deal with Apfle.

James: Yeah, I meant to ask you about that. You seem more exhausted than usual.

Claire: With good reason! I suppose I've been **burning the candle at both ends**. I'm staying late at work and I'm awake half the night with Lauren. **She's teething** at the moment.

James: Wow, you really have your work cut out for you!

Claire: I know! My husband reckons this is a **dead-end job** and that I should get out, find something I'm passionate about. But I don't think it's such a big deal. As long as I have him and Lauren, it's all worth it.

James: [Half-heartedly] Right, come on. That's enough **dossing** for one day, don't you think? Let's get back to work.

Claire: I suppose you're right.

[Going up the back stairs]

James: Oh no, is that the big cheese himself? Quick, keep your head down, maybe he won't notice us.

Boss: Good afternoon. And where exactly are you coming from?

Claire: Oh, good afternoon, George. We didn't see you there. We've... errrm... I've just been out for a business lunch with Apfle. James here was kind enough to pick me up and bring me back to the office.

Boss: I see, well, how very good of you James. I'd like a report of the proceedings before the end of the day.

Claire: Umm, yes, sure! I look forward to it.

[The boss leaves]

Claire: That is the last time you talk me into **dossing** with you!!

James: Good luck!

PISTA 36A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que al principio de la conversación se oye ruido de oficina y después se oye el ruido típico del interior de un bar.

PISTA 36B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

big cheese	jefazo, director
to bang on about	hablar demasiado y con insistencia
to burn the candle at both ends	tratar de abarcar demasiado
she's teething	le están saliendo los dientes
dead-end job	trabajo sin futuro/ posibilidades de ascenso
to doss	hargaranear, holgazanear

TEMA: DOSSING AROUND

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) Why was Claire worried about going for a couple of beers?

- 2) Who was Claire worried would see them?

- 3) Claire told James to stop banging on about it. What does this mean?

- 4) In the end, Claire was glad James had convinced her to go for a few beers. Why?

- 5) James says that Claire seems more exhausted than usual. What reason does she give for this?

- 6) Why is Claire awake half the night with her baby, Lauren?

- 7) What does Claire's husband think about her job?

- 8) Who do James and Claire meet going up the back stairs to the office?

- 9) Where did Claire say she had been?

- 10) Does Claire intend to doss with James again?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 255]







FOOTBALLER SALARIES

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

- Zack:** Phhht, did you see that goal?! Absolute cracker!
- Siobhán:** [Sarcastically] Yeah, great, that totally justifies the ridiculous money these people earn.
- Zack:** [Choosing to ignore the sarcasm] Yes, **you've hit the nail on the head**, I couldn't agree with you more!
- Siobhán:** I mean I like football, but I was listening to a show about footballers' wages yesterday and it turned my stomach. These footballers don't bring anywhere near as much value to society as, say, a nurse, who earns thousands of times less per year than these men who just provide entertainment.
- Zack:** I couldn't agree less, it's pure **supply and demand**; people are willing to keep paying higher and higher prices to go to matches because football brings something important to their lives; a hobby, a passion and a release from the **day-to-day drudgery**. Just look at the turnout at these matches!
- Siobhán:** And that's fine, but over 10 million pounds a year? Come on, it's a little **over-the-top**.
- Zack:** That's just for a few top-flight players, plus it's no worse than multimillionaire actors and directors. Do they really bring that much value to the world?
- Siobhán:** That's different, they're contributing to the rich **tapestry** of human artistic endeavour.
- Zack:** Sounds like someone should get down from their ivory tower and **rough it** with the common people!
- Siobhán:** Yeah right! And a multimillionaire football player is one of the common people?
- Zack:** Look, national governments get plenty of money by taxing the hell out the players.
- Siobhán:** Ha, they'd get a lot more if footballers weren't so good at finding **tax-dodging loopholes**!
- Zack:** OK, you might have a point there.
- Siobhán:** Wow, you admitted I might be right! What a turn up for the books!
- Zack:** Yeah, well would you acknowledge my being right if the tables were turned?
- Siobhán:** Of course I would, but I'm never wrong!
- Zack:** [Laughs] Ahh, of course! [Short pause] Anyway, United are playing on Thursday, are you up for it? Or are you going to turn the match into another excuse to **whinge**?
- Siobhán:** Yeah, I'll probably turn up. Oh and, by the way, it was a cracking goal!



PISTA 37A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando mientras en la tele se oye la retransmisión de un partido de fútbol.

PISTA 37B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

to hit the nail on the head	dar en el clavo
supply and demand	oferta y demanda
drudgery	pesadez de hacer un trabajo aburrido/duro
over-the-top	excesivo, exagerado
tapestry	tapicería
to rough it	vivir sin comodidades
tax-dodging loophole	una laguna/fisura legal que sirve para pagar menos impuestos
to whinge	quejarse

TEMA: FOOTBALLER SALARIES

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What does Siobhán think about footballers' pay?

- 2) What phrase does Zack use when he responds?

- 3) What is Siobhán's point about nurses?

- 4) Which economic theory does Zack employ to back up his argument?

- 5) Which benefits does he believe football brings to people's lives?

- 6) When Siobhán mentions multimillion-pound salaries, what two retorts does Zack make?

- 7) What is Siobhán's rejoinder ('réplica')?

- 8) How does Zack make fun of Siobhán in response to this comment?

- 9) What does Siobhán ask about top footballers?

- 10) When Zack talks about the amount that footballer pay in taxes, how does Siobhán reply?

- 11) Siobhán is surprised that Zack admits she might have a point. What question does Zack ask? And, for bonus points, which phrase with **"turn"** does he use?

- 12) What does Zack ask about Thursday?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 255]







THE WASHING MACHINE

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

[Doorbell rings]

Technician: Hello, I'm here to fix the washing machine.

Mike: Great! Follow me, I'll show you where it is.

Technician: OK, so what seems to be the problem?

Mike: Well, it won't spin at the end of the cycle and our clothes come out **soaking wet**.

Technician: How long has it been playing up like this?

Mike: About a week now. It's a **bit of a pain** really as we only bought the machine three months ago.

Technician: **Let's have a look** then. Ahh, it's the DW Turbo 60. One of my favourite! Great machine!

Mike: Yes, yes, of course, we thought so too.

Technician: Right, I'll make a start.

Mike: So, did you see **the derby** last night? Wooney played so well, didn't he?

Technician: No, mate, **I'm not into football**. I'm more of a chess man.

[Uncomfortable silence]

Mike: So, how long have you been working on washing machines?

Technician: **It's coming up** to ten years now.

Mike: So, erm, do you like it?

Technician: Yep.

[Uncomfortable silence]

Mike: So, what does **the Mrs** do?

Technician: I'm divorced.

Mike: Ahh [Pause]. I got a friend who's divorced too...

[Uncomfortable silence]

Mike: So, summer's nearly here then?

Technician: Yep.

[Uncomfortable silence]

Technician: Right that's working now. Shall I send the bill to **the landlord**?

Mike: Yes, please, that would be great if you could, thanks. See you.



PISTA 38A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que de fondo se oye una música instrumental.

PISTA 38B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>soaking wet</i>	empapado/a
<i>bit of a pain</i>	un mal rollo
<i>let's have a look</i>	echemos un vistazo
<i>the derby</i>	enfrentamiento entre dos equipos que juegan en la misma zona
<i>I'm not into...</i>	no me gusta...
<i>it's coming up to...</i>	ya van casi...
<i>the Mrs</i>	la mujer (esposa)
<i>the landlord</i>	el dueño/la dueña, el casero/la casera

TEMA: THE WASHING MACHINE

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) Who's at the door?

- 2) What's he coming to fix?

- 3) What's the problem with it?

- 4) How do the clothes come out?

- 5) How long has it been broken?

- 6) Why does Mike say it's a bit of a pain?

- 7) What's the make of the machine?

- 8) According to Mike, who played well in the derby last night?

- 9) What does the technician prefer instead of football?

- 10) How long has the technician been doing his job?

- 11) According to Mike, what time of year is it going to be soon?

- 12) Who does the technician suggest sending the bill to?

- 13) How does Mike respond to this?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 255]







SOME ADVICE

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

- Kate:** Hey Matt. Thanks for meeting me for coffee. I know you're pretty **snowed under** at the moment.
- Matt:** That's OK. It sounded pretty serious. Is everything OK?
- Kate:** Of course! Why wouldn't it be? I just thought it'd be nice to meet for a coffee and a chat.
- Matt:** Kate, we don't do coffee and a chat. We've actually never met for coffee before. And then there's the fact that you called me up at work to ask me to meet you for a coffee and nearly cried when I said I wasn't sure I could manage it today.
- Kate:** You're such an exaggerator! I just... OK. Look. I needed some advice. Urgently.
- Matt:** You need urgent advice? Isn't that the sort of thing you go to a doctor for?
- Kate:** [Sarcastically] Ha, ha. Look, I shouldn't have rung you. I knew you wouldn't take it seriously.
- Matt:** Try me.
- Kate:** OK. [Takes a deep breath] It's about James and as you're so close I thought you could help.
- Matt:** [Alarmed] James?! What's the matter with James?
- Kate:** Well, I love your brother, but to be diplomatic about it, I find his **household** habits somewhat trying.
- Matt:** [Interrupts] Hang on, hang on. **Let me get this straight**. You've actually **dragged me** out of the office on one of the busiest weeks of the year to complain about my brother and housework?
- Kate:** I knew you wouldn't understand! It's really serious! Our future happiness is **at stake** and you're not even trying to help!
- Matt:** No, I'm not, because maybe you should be talking to him about it, and not me! Anyway, that doesn't really seem like James. He'd do anything for you!
- Kate:** I've tried talking to him, but he just says that I'm being neurotic.
- Matt:** Well, maybe you are! What are we talking about here, exactly?
- Kate:** Where to begin? Well, he doesn't **plump up** the pillows when he makes the bed, he uses **mismatched cutlery** when he sets the table, he doesn't alphabetize the books and he never shines the taps when he cleans the bathroom.
- Matt:** [Silence] There are no words. How have you put up with him? Never trust a man who uses mismatched **cutlery**! You need to end this relationship immediately!



PISTA 39A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando en un cafetería.

PISTA 39B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

snowed under	agobiado de trabajo
household	doméstico
let me get this straight	a ver si me entero
to drag	arrastrar
at stake	en riesgo
to plump up	ahuecar
mismatched	mal emparejado
cutlery	cubiertos
sprinkles	virutas

TEMA: SOME ADVICE



Kate: What? Really?

Matt: No! Of course not! Has it ever occurred to you that he's right? That maybe you are completely neurotic and that he's the one keeping you sane?! Just think about the coffee you ordered; a mocha skinny latte with caramel, no chocolate **sprinkles** and full fat foam on top. That's just not normal!

Kate: Hmm... So you think it's a little unreasonable to ask him not to use the toilet the day I clean it?

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



1) Why does Kate say she wants to meet Matt?

2) Why doesn't Matt believe her?

3) What else?

4) Why does Kate really want to meet?

5) About what?

6) Why does Kate say she's asking Matt's advice?

7) What is the relationship between Matt and James?

8) What does James say about Kate?

9) Kate has four complaints about James. What are they?

10) What's Matt's advice?

11) What does Matt really think?

12) What request does Kate realize might be unreasonable?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 255]







THE ESCAPE

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

- Convict 1:** [Breathing heavily] Come on, man! Keep up.
- Convict 2:** [Also breathing heavily] I can't, I seriously can't. **Put the brakes on**, will you?
- Convict 1:** Listen, **for your own sake** we need to keep moving. We have to get off this highway by **daybreak**.
- Convict 2:** Why?
- Convict 1:** Because we can't afford to be seen in daylight, man, you know that! **Whadya** want, to go back to prison, is it?
- Convict 2:** Of course not! I've made my choice. I know there's no going back once you've broken out. **Whadya** think I am, an idiot?
- Convict 1:** Look, I'm just saying! Your ears are working, right? You can hear **the choppers** above us just as clearly as I can. That means **the story has already broken** and our **ugly mugs** are plastered across every TV set in America.
- Convict 2:** Alright, OK. What about a quick cigarette break then? Come on! How long has it been since you had a smoke in the open air? If we don't deserve that much, then I don't know what all this was for anyway.
- Convict 1:** [Slowing down] Fair enough. But listen, I don't like people who slow me down, you get me? This is a five minute thing at most, not a second longer.
- Convict 2:** Understood. And when we get to Dentonville, Lurleen'll **break out the good whiskey**. That much I promise you.
- Convict 1:** [Pulling on a cigarette] Well, I hope you're not in the habit of breaking promises.
- Convict 2:** [Also pulling on a cigarette] So, what did you do anyway? [Sarcastically] Don't tell me? You broke the law, right? Am I right?
- Convict 1:** You're a real joker, you know that. Yeah, I broke the law. It was a long time ago. Best not to get into these things.
- Convict 2:** Come on, **humour me**. Why can't you just le...
- Convict 1:** [Sharply] Shhh! Did you hear that?
- Convict 2:** Hear what?
- Convict 1:** [Sound of approaching sirens in the distance] Sirens! They're coming! And **at breakneck speed**. Run, you fool!
- Convict 2:** [Sounds of running] Aw man, why can't I ever **catch a break**!



PISTA 40A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando mientras caminan por una autopista y hay mucho ruido por el tráfico.

PISTA 40B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>to put the brakes on</i>	poner freno
<i>for your own sake</i>	por tu propio bien
<i>daybreak</i>	amanecer
<i>whadya</i>	coloquial para "what do you", pronunciado /uádia/
<i>chopper</i>	coloquial helicóptero
<i>the story has broken</i>	la noticia ha salido a la luz
<i>ugly mug</i>	cara fea
<i>to break out the whiskey</i>	sacar el whiskey
<i>to humour someone</i>	darle el gusto a alguien
<i>breakneck speed</i>	velocidad de vértigo
<i>to catch a break</i>	tener un poco de suerte

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What does the second convict ask the first convict to do? Slow down or speed up?

- 2) By when do they need to get off the highway?

- 3) Why do they need to get off the highway?

- 4) According to the second convict, is there any going back once you've broken out of prison?

- 5) What can they hear above them?

- 6) Do they think the story has already broken?

- 7) What is plastered across every TV set in America?

- 8) What kind of break does the second convict want?

- 9) How long can the break last at most?

- 10) Where are the convicts headed?

- 11) What will Lurleen do when they get there?

- 12) What can they hear coming at breakneck speed?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 255]







THE BROTHER

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

- Ronan:** Alright, Emma, how are things? You look a bit **glum**.
- Emma:** Ah, don't worry about it, Ronan. It's nothing really. Let's change the subject.
- Ronan:** Come on! **Spit it out**, I'm not blind. I can see when something's up with you.
- Emma:** Well, alright then, it's my brother, Francis. He's just so...
- Ronan:** [Interrupting] Oh, **for heaven's sake**, not this again. You've got to change your approach on this one, Emma. Will you ever give up worrying about him?
- Emma:** Alright then, never mind. I thought you wanted to know!
- Ronan:** Of course I do, sorry. I shouldn't have **had a go at** you. What's on your mind?
- Emma:** Well, you know how concerned I've been about Francis lately, right? I've probably told you all this before, but I really think he was more than a little **down in the dumps**. He **moped around** the house all day. He went nowhere; saw no one, did nothing. He seemed to have no desire to change his life. Oh, and his **mood swings** were awful!
- Ronan:** Yeah, so I've heard a few times before.
- Emma:** Well, you know he was **on the dole**? He'd been on it for ages, over two years. So, one day I sat him down and had a good chat with him. I told him that I thought it'd be good for him to look for a job, something to keep him ticking over so that he didn't have to rely on mum and dad for funds all the time. Not to mention, a job would at least be a change of scenery from the house.
- Ronan:** You're not serious! Did you actually say that to him? Francis isn't the type of guy you lecture, Emma!
- Emma:** Well, I know that now, don't I? **He's so short-tempered!** He lost it straight away of course. I didn't think he'd forgive me.
- Ronan:** Wait... you said you didn't think he'd forgive you? Implying that he has forgiven you?
- Emma:** Yep! [Ironically] As it turns out he took my advice and went straight out and got a job in the fish factory down the road from us. De-shelling crab is his main task, apparently. It's not exactly the change I had in mind. Now, he comes home everyday **reeking** of fish. And I can't bear it, honestly, it's vile!
- Ronan:** [Laughing sardonically] Good enough for you! That's what you get for **meddling with** other people's lives!



PISTA 41A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando mientras se celebra una fiesta y hay mucho ruido de voces y música de fondo.

PISTA 41B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>glum</i>	apenado
<i>spit it out!</i>	¡suéltalo!, ¡dilo!
<i>for heaven's sake</i>	¡por todos los cielos!
<i>to have a go at</i>	meterse con, insultar a
<i>to be down in the dumps</i>	estar en un pozo
<i>to mope around</i>	estar desanimado
<i>mood swing</i>	cambio repentino de humor
<i>to be on the dole</i>	cobrar el paro
<i>to tick over</i>	sobrevivir con el dinero
<i>to be short-tempered</i>	tener malas pulgas
<i>to reek</i>	apestar
<i>to meddle with</i>	trastear

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



1) According to Ronan, how does Emma look?

2) Who is Emma worried about? What's his name?

3) Is it the first time Ronan has heard Emma talk about Francis?

4) What does Ronan say he shouldn't have done?

5) Did Emma think Francis was happy?

6) What does Emma say Francis did in the house all day?

7) How long had Francis been on the dole?

8) Why did Emma think a job would be good for her brother?

9) What type of guy is Francis, according to Ronan?

10) Where did Emma's brother get a job?

11) What is Emma's brother's main task at work?

12) What does Emma's brother reek of when he comes home from work?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en las páginas 255 + 256]







THE TELEPHONE OPERATOR

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

Call centre assistant: [Condescending tone] Good afternoon, sir, how can I help you?

Timothy: Oh, thank goodness, I've finally gotten through to someone. My name's Timothy and I just need to update my car insurance details so that I can drive again, once and for all!

Call centre assistant: Sorry, sir, you've reached License renewals. Please, write down the following phone number and...

Timothy: No! No! Please, don't give me any phone numbers! Please, just help me with my enquiry! I rang the DVLO hotline and the woman on the line transferred me to a man, who then told me to write down a code, and then transferred me to another man, who then transferred me to another woman, who then put me **on hold** before she decided to transfer me to you.

Call centre assistant: I cannot help you, sir. Write down this code and...

Timothy: Please, please, no! I don't want to write anything down! I've been on the line for two hours and most of that time I've been on hold! Please, just update my details yourself. I just want to update my insurance information.

Call centre assistant: I'm not authorized to do that, sir. The person authorized to carry out that action works in a different department. I deal with license renewals. Would you like to **renew your license**?

Timothy: No!!!

Call centre assistant: There's no need to shout, sir. One second, you shouldn't be on hold for long.

Timothy: But... [**Hold music** starts]. Oh great! I just want to do one simple thing and it's impossible for the DVLO to help me out! I **have half a mind to** write a polite little letter to the manager.

Call centre assistant: DEEE-VEEEEE-ELLLLL-OOOOHH, how can I help you?

Timothy: You're the same woman!

Call centre assistant: Yes, why have you **rung back**, sir? I transferred you to the **switchboard**. You weren't supposed to have been transferred back to me!

Timothy: You certainly did not transfer me to switchboard!! Honestly! This telephone service would try the patience of a saint! I have been transferred more times than I care to remember, the telephone operators have been rude at the best of times and nobody has managed to transfer me to the right person. Why can't you all **sort it out**?



PISTA 42A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando por teléfono y la conexión no es muy buena.

PISTA 42B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

on hold	en espera
to renew one's license	renovar el carnet de conducir
hold music	hilo musical
to have half a mind to...	estar casi decidido a...
to ring back	volver a llamar
switchboard	centralita
to sort it out	resolverlo todo



Call centre assistant: There's no need for that attitude, sir. Have you taken a look on our website? There's a link on our homepage that will take you to a page where you can update your insurance details. Write down the URL: www.DVLO.com.

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What did Timothy want to do?

- 2) What was the problem?

- 3) What did the call centre assistant want him to do?

- 4) What did he beg her not to do?

- 5) How long had he been on the line?

- 6) What was the call centre assistant not authorized to do?

- 7) What did she assure Timothy?

- 8) What did Timothy have half a mind to do when he was once again on hold?

- 9) What did Timothy say when the same call centre assistant picked up his transferred call?

- 10) What did she then ask him?

- 11) What was her reason for asking this question?

- 12) How many times had Timothy's calls been transferred?

- 13) What did the call centre assistant recommend that Tim do regarding his car insurance details?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 256]



43A 43B FISHING

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

Trevor: OK, we're here! Welcome to lake Kitilian!

Cindy: Wow, it's so **picturesque** here. Darling, maybe you were right, maybe we will have fun fishing... but remember, next week we're going to the spa and getting full **make-overs**.

Trevor: Yes, I know what the deal is. Right, let's set up the **rods** and I'll tell you all you need to know about fishing.

Cindy: I'm not going to break any of my nails catching fish, am I?

Trevor: No, you'll be fine. Now, let's choose our **bait** and hooks.

Cindy: Hooks? Won't they hurt the poor little fishies?

Trevor: Don't worry about that, worry about where to **cast your line**. Hmm... based on the wind... I'm going to cast mine there.

Cindy: OK, I'm going to cast mine... here! Right, so now what?

Trevor: We just sit and wait. Once you feel **a tug** on the line, you need **to jerk** the rod vertically and simultaneously **reel it in**. Make sure you keep the line tight at all times.

Cindy: Yes, darling, that makes perfect sense. I think I'll **go with the flow**.

Trevor: Don't worry, love. It takes years of experience to become good at the sport. I started fishing 30 years ago; so I'm not expecting you to...

Cindy: [Interrupts shouting] I can feel it tugging! It's tugging!

Trevor: Lift it up! Reel it in! You've caught it! You've caught it!

Cindy: Wow! It's huge! I'm a natural!

Trevor: OK, just remove it, check the line for damage, re-bait the hook and cast your line again. You've had a bit of beginner's luck!

[Two hours later]

Cindy: [Excited] Another one! Another one! This is the sixteenth fish I've caught today!

Trevor: [Sarcastically] Good for you!

Cindy: Go me! I'm awesome!

Trevor: [Sadly] I think we should **get going** now.

Cindy: But you haven't caught any fish yet!

Trevor: [Sadly] It's not my day. I guess I'm not an expert at anything.

Cindy: Look, don't feel bad. I've just been lucky today and I've had the best teacher.

Trevor: But you're already great at everything.

Cindy: Aww, babe, you're a real catch. I'm so lucky to have you. Give me a kiss!

Trevor: Right, let's get going before we get caught up in all this emotion.



PISTA 43A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que hay un montón de pájaros piando alrededor.

PISTA 43B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>picturesque</i>	pintoresco
<i>a make-over</i>	un cambio de look
<i>rods</i>	caña de pescar
<i>bait</i>	cebo
<i>to cast your line</i>	lanzar el sedal
<i>a tug</i>	un tirón
<i>to jerk</i>	dar un tirón a
<i>to reel in</i>	sacar del agua (enrollando el sedal)
<i>to go with the flow</i>	relajarse, dejarse llevar
<i>to get going</i>	ponerse en marcha

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What's the name of the lake?

- 2) What are Trevor and Cindy going to do next week?

- 3) What's Cindy worried about?

- 4) What does Trevor say they need to choose?

- 5) When Trevor decides where to cast his line, what does he base the decision on?

- 6) What does Trevor say Cindy needs to do when she feels a tug on the line?

- 7) When did Trevor start fishing?

- 8) What does Trevor say Cindy needs to do once she's caught a fish?

- 9) What does he say Cindy has had today?

- 10) How many fish did Cindy catch?

- 11) And how many did Trevor catch?

- 12) Why does Cindy say that Trevor shouldn't feel bad?

- 13) What does Trevor say Cindy is great at?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 256]







THE INSURANCE POLICY

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Martin: Good morning, Vaughan Insurance. Martin speaking. How can I help you?

Kate: Hi, I've got a household insurance policy with you and I've had a **break in**. I need to replace my living room window.

Martin: I'm terribly sorry to hear that, madam. Could I have your name and policy number please?

Kate: My name's Kate Turnbull. My policy number is IG 0937 6333 967P.

Martin: Please just **bear with me** for one moment, madam, while I retrieve your details. Ah, yes, Flat 24B Blackstock Road, London N4 2PQ. Now, have you reported the incident to the police?

Kate: No, not exactly. You see...

Martin: [Interrupts] I refer you to clause 13.2 [c] of your policy, madam. I'm afraid we are unable to process crime-related insurance claims until they have been reported to the police. You will need to do so and provide us with the relevant crime number before we can proceed.

Kate: Well, that's the thing, you see. It wasn't exactly a crime...

Martin: [Slowly] A break in is a crime and must be reported to the police, madam.

Kate: [Getting irritated] Yes, you said! But if you'd just hold on a minute and not keep interrupting, I'd be able to explain.

Martin: [Sighs] Go ahead, madam.

Kate: It was a **pheasant**.

Martin: [Pause] I beg your pardon, madam?

Kate: It was a pheasant. A pheasant broke into my house.

Martin: [Long pause] Hold on, hold on. Let me get this straight. You had a break in. And the **culprit** was a pheasant? Is this a **prank call**? Hold on, it's not **April Fool's Day**, is it?

Kate: [Impatient] It's August. April Fool's Day is in April.

Martin: There's no need to get **snippy** with me, madam. I'm just doing my job.

PISTA 44A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando mientras pasan muchos coches por la calle.

PISTA 44B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

to break in	forzar la entrada
bear with me	ten paciencia conmigo
pheasant	faisán
culprit	culpable
prank call	llamada para hacer una broma
April Fool's Day	Día de los Santos Inocentes
snippy	insolente
to cause havoc	causar estragos
small print	letra pequeña

TEMA: THE INSURANCE POLICY



Kate: I'm sorry. I'm sorry, I'm just really stressed and upset. I know how it sounds, but that's what happened! And I have photos to prove it! I came home this morning at around 2 a.m. to find the window smashed and my stuff thrown everywhere. I sent my boyfriend to investigate and he found a pheasant in my bedroom, **causing havoc**! In my bedroom! [Getting hysterical] And that's why I can't report it to the police, because you can't report birds for committing crimes, can you?! But a horrible, nasty bird smashed my window and messed up my flat. And I want to make a claim on my household insurance policy to do the repairs! I've checked the **small print**. There's no exclusion clause for birds...

Martin: Madam, madam, please calm down! As this is... um... a rather unique case, I'm not entirely sure of the process here. I'm going to have to refer this matter to my supervisor. Please hold the line.

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What's just happened to Kate?

- 2) What does Kate need to do?

- 3) What's Kate's policy number?

- 4) What clause number does Martin refer to?

- 5) What does the clause state?

- 6) What information will the insurance company need before they can proceed?

- 7) Why hasn't Kate reported the incident to the police?

- 8) What broke her window and messed up her flat?

- 9) What month of the year is it?

- 10) Who found the culprit and where?

- 11) Can Kate prove what's happened? How?

- 12) What is Martin going to do?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 256]





THE MATCH

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Neil: Lawrence, sorry I'm late! What's going on with the match? I'm so **gutted** I missed the first half.

Lawrence: Hey, what's going on, Neil? The match is going well. It's been a draw so far. What took you so long to get here, buddy?

Neil: Well, I've been at work all day and then I got caught up on the metro over here. Train delays really **do my head in**. What's the score, anyway?

Lawrence: They're drawing 1-1.

Neil: Has the match been a draw for long?

Lawrence: Yeah, it has basically been a draw since the opening minute. The home team **netted** an easy one in the first minute and the visiting team **drew even** on a header shortly after.

Neil: Awesome! That's exciting. Are you **rooting for** the home team?

Lawrence: No, I'm rooting for the visiting team because they're the **underdogs**. I've been so excited since they scored. Who are you rooting for?

Neil: Well, I'm rooting for the home team. I normally root for the underdog, but I've been rooting for the home team since the beginning of the season. I don't want to **change horses midstream** and root for the underdog now.

Lawrence: Yeah, I agree! Even though I want you to root for the underdog, I don't think you should ever change horses midstream. It's bad luck! Besides, it will be exciting if we root for opposing teams. They're really **neck and neck**!

Neil: Do you think the game will end up a draw?

Lawrence: I hope not. If it ends up a draw, I'll be really disappointed.

Neil: Me too, it's always a **letdown** when the match ends up a draw. But I don't think the teams will stay neck and neck like this for long.

Lawrence: Me neither. I think that the underdogs will win! Besides, my team always wins when both teams are drawing after the first half.

Neil: Well, I bet my team wins because they're the team that I'm rooting for!

PISTA 45A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando mientras ven unos fuegos artificiales.

PISTA 45B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

gutted	decepcionado/a
to do one's head in	molestar
to net	meter un gol
to draw even	empatar
to root for	apoyar un equipo
underdog	el tapado
to change horses midstream	cambiar de equipo a mitad de temporada
neck and neck	parejos
a letdown	una decepción

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) At what point in the match has Neil arrived to see it?

- 2) Why has Neil gotten there so late?

- 3) According to Lawrence, how's the match going?

- 4) How long have the two teams been drawing?

- 5) Which team is Lawrence rooting for?

- 6) Which team is Neil rooting for?

- 7) How long has Neil been rooting for his team?

- 8) How is Lawrence going to feel if the match ends up a draw?

- 9) What does Neil think about matches that finish in draws?

- 10) Does Neil think that this match will end up a draw?

- 11) Which team does Lawrence think is going to win?

- 12) Why does Lawrence think that the visiting team will win?

- 13) Which team does Neil think is going to win?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 256]







A ROUGH NIGHT

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Marcus: Well, good afternoon! **What time do you call this?**

Fiona: Oh shut up... I had a **rough night**.

Marcus: I bet you did, what time did you fall asleep?

Fiona: It was about an hour after I got home, when did you leave the restaurant?

Marcus: I left when you started arguing. It's not comfortable for other people, you know... oh, by the way, are you OK? I mean, after your fall?

Fiona: No! Look at my knee [Shows her knee, pointing to a bloody scratch]. I can't believe I fell in front of everyone... but thanks for helping.

Marcus: Ha, ha, its OK, I felt really bad for you, although I did laugh about it afterwards. Anyway, are you going to **spill the beans**? Why were you arguing?

Fiona: Well, to **cut a long story short**, he thinks I've fallen in love with my boss! Can you believe that?

Marcus: Oh my God, **are you being serious**? Has he seen your boss? He looks like he fell out of the ugly tree and hit every branch on the way down.

Fiona: Don't be so harsh... he's a really nice guy. I mean, not my type, but he's lovely and kind. Plus, he always makes an effort with me and I actually think he is quite good looking for his age.

Marcus: Hmm, maybe Nick has a point. You sound like you've fallen for him.

Fiona: Not you as well. I don't want to have this conversation anymore. Am I not allowed to say nice things about my boss?

Marcus: Well, I don't want you to fall out with me, but Nick is obviously jealous and you should be a bit more understanding.

Fiona: I understand his point of view, but it's just not true and that's it!

Marcus: OK, I'm just letting you know. I think you should go back to bed; you're obviously in a bad mood.

Fiona: Sorry! I just feel bit rubbish... I had an argument with my boyfriend, I fell over on the street and now... I'm arguing with my best friend!

Marcus: Don't worry about it, just get your coffee and go back to bed, I'll speak to you later.

PISTA 46A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando en la cocina con el ruido de la radio y la máquina de café.

PISTA 46B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

What time do you call this?	¿Qué horas son estas?
rough night	noche dura
to spill the beans	descubrir el pastel, decirlo todo
to cut a long story short	para resumir
Are you being serious?	¿Hablas en serio?

TEMA: A ROUGH NIGHT

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



1) What kind of night did Fiona have?

2) When did she fall asleep?

3) When did Marcus leave the restaurant?

4) Why did he leave the restaurant?

5) Did Fiona's boyfriend help her when she fell?

6) Which part of her body did she hurt when she fell?

7) Why did Nick and Fiona argue?

8) What does Fiona's boss look like, according to Marcus?

9) What does Fiona say her boss is like?

10) Does Marcus agree with Fiona?

11) What does Marcus suggest Fiona should do?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en las páginas 256 + 257]







THE OPENING SPEECH

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Mr Buchanan: Hun, are you going to the opening ceremony of the new beach resort?

Mrs Buchanan: Why would I? You know I was thrilled about this project until Dan **messed it all up**. If things go on like this, we'll have to close it down, I'm sure. **Plus**, Dan himself is going to do the opening speech.

Mr Buchanan: What's wrong with Dan doing the opening speech?

Mrs Buchanan: Phil, I'd rather sit on a bed of nails than sit through Dan's opening remarks! He's so **full of himself**!

Mr Buchanan: I really think you should go, Elaine. Don't shut yourself away like that. It's a huge event and you're the event manager. They even closed off the streets in the area.

Mrs Buchanan: I wouldn't care, even if they closed off the whole city center. Have I told you about yesterday's meeting? I suggested to Dan that we could manage things differently, because I think that the way it's set up it's not going to work in the long term. I thought Dan would be open to ideas, but he **proved me wrong**; he told me how dare I tell him how to run his business, walked off and slammed the door! It was a real eye-opener because I realised how closed-minded he really is. After all, I've been in the business far longer than that little **brat**!

Mr Buchanan: Darling, I think you should make a decision. Either you **get on with it** and play your part or you start looking for another job. At the moment there are many job openings at similar event companies.

Mrs Buchanan: You may be right. **The thing is**, I've put so much into this company in the last 15 years, and I can't seem to accept the fact that the new boss is a **spoiled** kid who's only there because he inherited the company from his dad.

Mr Buchanan: Well, you can't do much about it, can you? And **ranting** about it doesn't help either.

Mrs Buchanan: Actually... I might be able to do something. The other day Mark opened up to me and told me that the whole team is fed up with Dan.

Mr Buchanan: So what is it that you could do?

PISTA 47A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando mientras se escuchan unos truenos.

PISTA 47B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>to mess up</i>	estropear
<i>plus</i>	además (informal)
<i>full of himself</i>	engreído
<i>proved me wrong</i>	demostró que yo me había equivocado
<i>brat</i>	mocoso/a
<i>get on with it</i>	acéptalo
<i>the thing is</i>	es que
<i>spoiled</i>	malcriado/a
<i>to rant</i>	despotricar
<i>fill me in</i>	ponme al corriente

TEMA: THE OPENING SPEECH



Mrs Buchanan: You know what, I'll go to the opening ceremony. In fact, I can't wait to listen to the opening speech!

Mr Buchanan: OK, what's going on here? **Fill me in.** What are you going to do??

Mrs Buchanan: Do you trust me, Phil? If you do, don't ask questions and get me your mother's sleeping pills. I'll call Mark and the others to make some preparations. Let's see if Dan gets to give his opening speech alive.

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) Why doesn't Elaine want to go to the opening ceremony?

- 2) Why would Elaine rather sit on a bed of nails than sit through the opening remarks?

- 3) Why does Phil think that Elaine should go to the opening ceremony?

- 4) How did Dan react to Elaine's suggestions at yesterday's meeting?

- 5) What kind of decision does Phil think that Elaine should make?

- 6) What does Elaine find difficult to accept?

- 7) But what doesn't help her in the situation, according to Phil?

- 8) What did Elaine tell her husband about Mark?

- 9) Why does Phil ask Elaine what was going on?

- 10) What does Elaine tell Phil to do?

- 11) What is Elaine going to do in the meantime?

- 12) What is Elaine insinuating in her last sentence?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 257]





HAVE YOU HEARD?

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

Cassie: Dave, have you heard what happened to Brian?

Dave: No, I haven't heard a thing! What happened? **Spill the beans!**

Cassie: Right, well, between you and me then. You know his girlfriend Jane? You know, the one he brings everywhere with him?

Dave: I'm not sure I've met her...

Cassie: Of course you have, they've practically been **joined at the hip** for the last two years!

Dave: Oh right, yeah. Jane! Of course. Go on.

Cassie: Well, she found out he was **doing the dirty again** and went mental. Apparently, she managed to **bring up his email account** and found loads of messages from him to other girls.

Dave: You're kidding! What did she do?

Cassie: You won't believe it, right. She waits til they are asleep that night and then sets off the fire alarm in the building. When he wakes up, she tells him everyone is heading out to the street and not to bother grabbing any clothes.

Dave: Oooh, she's a devious one. I think I can see where this is going.

Cassie: Yeah. So, just in his boxers, he runs down the stairs ahead of her and out onto the footpath, at which point she closes the door and **bolts it** from the inside.

Dave: Leaving him on the street in nothing but his boxers, right?

Cassie: Bingo. But there's more! He quickly realizes that something is wrong and starts calling out to her. Meanwhile, she calls the police to report a **barely-clothed** weirdo screaming on the street.

Dave: Oh my god! I know he probably deserved it, but I could never **bring myself** to do something like that.

Cassie: Yep, well, she was able to bring herself to do it, obviously. [Pause] Anyway, the police turned up after a few minutes and said they'd have to **bring him in for questioning**.

Dave: Jeez, I know I shouldn't, but I actually feel kind of sorry for him.

Cassie: Don't feel sorry for him! They brought him in for questioning, but she isn't **bringing charges against** him or anything like that. I was a bit shocked at first, but now I think it's hilarious.

Dave: Yeah, I suppose you're right. It is kind of funny. Do you think she'll take him back this time?

Cassie: I seriously doubt it after all that! Anyway, fancy a coffee break?



PISTA 48A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando mientras trabajan en la cocina de un restaurante y se oye el ruido de los cacharros, del agua saliendo del fregadero y de la comida friéndose.

PISTA 48B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escucharla conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>to spill the beans</i>	.....	soltar la lengua
<i>joined at the hip</i>	.....	inseparables
<i>to do the dirty</i>	.....	poner los cuernos
<i>to bring up an email</i>	.....	abrir un correo electrónico
<i>to bolt the door</i>	.....	cerrar la puerta con llave
<i>barely-clothed</i>	.....	con muy poca ropa
<i>to bring oneself to</i>	.....	resolverse a
<i>to bring in for questioning</i>	.....	interrogar
<i>to bring charges against</i>	.....	presentar cargos contra

TEMA: HAVE YOU HEARD?

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) Who is Jane?

- 2) Are Brian and Jane usually together or apart?

- 3) What did Jane find out about Brian?

- 4) How did she find out that Brian was doing the dirty?

- 5) What did Jane do while they were asleep?

- 6) What did she tell him when he woke up?

- 7) Did Jane lock Brian into the building or out of the building?

- 8) Why did Jane call the police?

- 9) What did the police do with Brian when they turned up?

- 10) Is Jane bringing charges against Brian?

- 11) Does Cassie think the situation is funny?

- 12) Does Cassie think Jane will take Brian back this time?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 257]







THE COCKNEY RHYMING SLANG

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Ana: Hey, Rob. What are you up to?

Rob: Use your loaf, Ana!

Ana: Pardon?

Rob: I said, “use your loaf”. You know, “loaf”, like in “loaf of bread”.

Ana: I heard what you said, but what are you talking about? Why are you telling me to use a loaf of bread?

Rob: It’s **Cockney rhyming slang**!

Ana: I have absolutely no idea what you’re talking about. What’s cock...? Cock...?

Rob: Cockney rhyming slang! Cockney is a type of English accent that was originally only heard in **the East End** of London, although it’s heard all over South East England now. And Cockney rhyming slang is a slang that originated in the East End. Some expressions still used today date from as far back as the 1850s, apparently. Cockney rhyming slang replaces words with words or phrases that they rhyme with. So for example, loaf of bread rhymes with head. So I was telling you to “use your head” or “think about it”. I was clearly sitting here reading my book, so you didn’t need to ask me what I was doing.

Ana: I see. [Pause] So what brought about this sudden interest in the use of rhyming slang? You’re not even from London! And you live in Madrid! You won’t get much chance to use it around here. Nobody will know what you’re **going on about**.

Rob: True, but I thought I’d make some use of this book about Cockney rhyming slang that my mum bought me when she went to London for the Queen’s Jubilee celebrations. It’s fascinating! You know the way people sometimes use the word “barnet” for hair?

Ana: Well, no, actually. Most people I know use the word “pelo”. [Laughs]

Rob: We have a comedian **in our midst**! I think you **missed your calling**, Ana. Anyway, as I was saying, people use the word “barnet” for hair because “Barnet Fair” rhymes with “hair”. By the way, Barnet’s a place **on the outskirts** of North London that used to be famous for its...

Ana: [Interrupts] Let me guess, it used to be famous for its fair! But what use is it to you to be able to use expressions that very few people know. I mean, I certainly didn’t learn about it at university when I was studying English.

PISTA 49A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando en una cafetería.

PISTA 49B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>cockney rhyming slang</i>	la jerga rimada
	cockney
<i>the East End</i>	el este de Londres
	(tradicionalmente una zona obrera)
<i>to go on about</i>	dar la tabarra
<i>in our midst</i>	entre nosotros
<i>to miss your calling</i>	no seguir tu vocación
<i>on the outskirts</i>	en las afueras

TEMA: THE COCKNEY RHYMING SLANG



Rob: True, but actually, quite a few words of English slang are derived from rhyming slang, for example, money is bread, because “bread and honey” rhymes with “money”, “to rabbit is to talk”, because rabbit and pork talk...

Ana: [Interrupts] Ok, I got “loaf” and “barnet”, but those two don’t make a lot of sense. Why is it “bread and honey” or “rabbit and pork”? They seem like random combinations to me.

Rob: Well, actually, I’m not sure. I haven’t got to that bit yet...

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What does Rob tell Ana to do?

- 2) What does it mean?

- 3) What is Cockney?

- 4) Where did it originate?

- 5) Where can it be heard now?

- 6) How old are some expressions?

- 7) What is Cockney rhyming slang?

- 8) What was Rob doing when Ana came in?

- 9) Who bought him the book and when?

- 10) Where’s Barnet?

- 11) What is Cockney rhyming slang for “money”?

- 12) And what does “to rabbit” mean?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 257]





THE NEW LAPTOP

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

- Nacho:** Hey Caroline, have you bought your new laptop yet?
- Caroline:** Hey, yeah I bought it on the weekend.
- Nacho:** Nice... what's it like, do you like it?
- Caroline:** Yeah... well, I love the way it looks, but it's not very easy to use.
- Nacho:** How come? I thought it was supposed to be [In a sarcastic tone] "the most user friendly laptop on the market".
- Caroline:** I don't know; some programs are, but others seem impossible! I don't know what I'm doing wrong.
- Nacho:** Have you read all the instructions?
- Caroline:** Nobody reads instructions, Nacho. I've been using it for an hour here and an hour there. Maybe when I start using it for my uni work, it'll be easier to **figure out**.
- Nacho:** I remember when I bought my new phone at Christmas... it took me until Easter before I could properly use it. Maybe you just need to get used to it.
- Caroline:** Yeah, you're probably right. It was the same with my old phone too. The newer the **gadget**, the more difficult it is to use. Although, you should feel how light it is! It barely weighs anything!
- Nacho:** Cool, and how much was it in the end?
- Caroline:** I managed to get it for €500. They wanted to charge me an extra €50 for another package, but I thought what's the use in paying for something that I'm not going to use?
- Nacho:** Yeah, they always try that. Did you get a mouse included in the price?
- Caroline:** No, why would I need it? It comes with one on the keyboard.
- Nacho:** Ah right, I bought one with mine, I can't use the one on the keyboard with my **chubby** fingers...
- Caroline:** Ha, ha! No I'm used to it, so it's fine.
- Nacho:** Cool, at least that's something you can use!



PISTA 50A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando en el metro.

PISTA 50B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

to figure out resolver
gadget chisme
chubby regordete

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What does Nacho want to know?

- 2) Did Caroline buy the laptop on a Monday?

- 3) Does she like the way the laptop looks?

- 4) What is the laptop supposed to be, according to Nacho?

- 5) Has Caroline been using her new laptop a lot since she bought it?

- 6) When does she think it will be easier to figure out?

- 7) How long did it take Nacho to get used to his new phone?

- 8) Is Caroline's new laptop heavy?

- 9) Why did Caroline decide not to pay for extra €50?

- 10) Why did she say she didn't need an extra mouse?

- 11) Why can't Nacho use the mouse on the keyboards?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 257]





AT THE BAR

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Ben: Get your skates on, mate! We were half an hour late half an hour ago!

John: Yeah, yeah, **keep your hair on**, I'm ready.

Ben: You've been saying that for ages now, come one! We're losing precious drinking time!

John: Take it easy! Look! I've got my shoes on and everything! **Let's head**.

[In a bar]

Ben: Well, I've been to worse bars, but I can't think when...

John: Last year, Chris moved heaven and earth to get a booking at that **swanky** bar, and this year he doesn't seem to have put any effort in at all; pretty **sorry excuse for a party**.

Ben: Hold on, Johnny-boy, **things are looking up**! I just got a flirty glance from the girl at the bar!

John: Oh, nice! Are you gonna move on in now or are you gonna **play it cool** for a bit and then make your move later?

Ben: Well, **playing it cool's** never been my strong point; there's no time like the present, as they say.

John: Alright, well, I'll leave you to work your magic. I'm gonna wander on back over to Chris and do a little **catching up**. Don't have too much fun without me!

Ben: I'll try!

[John talks to the girl at the bar for a little while and goes back]

Ben: That was quick! Did she tell you to send over the better-looking guy standing next to you?

John: Yeah mate, you wish. She started talking about the existentialist movement and hyper reality, and stuff, throwing all this philosophy at me!

Ben: [Laughs] Ha, ha, ha!!! Man, you're well **out of your depth**!! So, what did you do?

John: I said I had to get my mate a drink for his birthday then I'd be right back.

Ben: [Laughs, then says sarcastically] Heh, nice move!

John: So, I remember you **going on about** hyper reality when you were studying, what can I tell her to look like I'm not totally **clueless** about it!? Are they paintings or sculptures or what?!!

PISTA 51A **RUIDO DE FONDO**

La dificultad del audio es que la conversación tiene lugar en un bar.

PISTA 51B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

Keep your hair on!	¡No te sulfures!
Let's head	Vámonos
swanky	pretencioso/a
a sorry excuse for	un/a... de baja calidad
Things are looking up!	¡Parece que las cosas van saliendo mejor!
to play it cool	hacerse el interesante
to catch up/to do some catching up (with someone)	ponerse al día con alguien que llevas tiempo sin ver, reencontrarse
to be out of one's depth	que le den mil vueltas a uno (literalmente, 'no hacer pie')
to go on about something	no parar de hablar sobre algo
to be clueless about something	no tener ni idea sobre algo
Existentialism	existencialismo



Ben: Mate, I studied hyperrealism, the super-realistic paintings and all that, remember? Hyper reality sounds like it must be philosophy if she's talking about **Existentialism**, but I literally have no idea!

John: Oh, great. Looks like I'll have to rely on my charm as usual...

Ben: Alright, see you in about two minutes then!

[Both laugh]

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What's the first thing that Ben tells John?

- 2) How does John respond?

- 3) What did Chris move heaven and earth to do the year before?

- 4) How does John describe the birthday celebration?

- 5) What makes the party go better for Ben?

- 6) How does John react to this news?

- 7) What does John say he's going to do with Chris?

- 8) What does the girl at the bar talk to Ben about?

- 9) Why does Ben think that John can help him?

- 10) What did John actually use to talk about?

- 11) What's the difference between the two?

- 12) What does John say he'll have to rely on?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 257]





THE HOST FAMILY

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Harry: [Panicking] Oh Kirsty, I'm really starting to have a bad feeling about this. **What if** Pierre's a total nightmare? **What if** he doesn't like us? What if he...

Kirsty: [Interrupting] Harry, **all you seem to say** these days is "What if...". Calm down, will you! You're behaving like a teenager. I've spoken to him on the phone a few times now. He's going to be no trouble at all.

Harry: [Calming down a little] OK, OK. I see where you're coming from. But even if he isn't any trouble, what about the food situation? I know the guy who runs the programme said we only have to provide three **square meals** a day, but that mightn't be enough. He could **eat us out of house and home**!

Kirsty: [Exasperated] Eat us out of house and home? Harry, really! Would you listen to yourself? You're being ridiculous. And besides, **you're one to talk!** You're the one who has breakfast, brunch, lunch, dinner, supper and a midnight snack. If anyone is going to **eat us out of house and home**, it won't be Pierre.

Harry: Alright, there's no need to **throw** that **in my face**.

Kirsty: Listen, if you just chill out about it, you'll probably enjoy having him around. **All we have to do is** feed him, make him feel welcome and take him out from time to time. You never know, you might even learn something from him!

Harry: OK, OK. I'm just worried that he'll **eat into my free time**. I mean, I still expect to get a round of golf in every weekend. As long as I get the full eighteen holes in once a week, I guess I can be positive about it.

Kirsty: **Eat into your free time?!** What about my free time? You don't seem to be bothered about that!

Harry: Well, this was your idea to begin with, so...

Kirsty: Honestly, I think you're just nervous. And you're nervous because you don't know what to expect and you're afraid it'll be awkward, aren't you?

Harry: [Sheepishly] You know me too well.

Kirsty: I'm sure you'll end up **eating your words**. You'll probably **get on like a house on fire**.

Harry: Hmmm... I hope you're right.

Kirsty: Now shhh! Here he comes....

PISTA 52A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando mientras están esperando en la sala de llegadas en un aeropuerto..

PISTA 52B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>What if...?</i>	¿Qué pasa si...?, ¿Y si...?
<i>all you seem to say</i>	todo lo que parece decir
<i>square meals</i>	comidas completas, comida decentes
<i>to eat someone out of house and home</i>	comer mucho, figurativamente comer todo lo que se encuentra en una casa
<i>You're one to talk!</i>	¡Mira quién habla!
<i>to throw something in someone's face</i>	echarle algo en cara a alguien
<i>to eat into someone's free time</i>	consumir el tiempo libre de alguien
<i>sheepishly</i>	tímidamente
<i>to eat your words</i>	comerte tus palabras
<i>to get on like a house on fire</i>	llevarse muy bien con alguien

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What is the only thing Harry seems to say these days?

- 2) Has Kirsty spoken to Pierre?

- 3) Does she think he's going to be any trouble?

- 4) What were Kirsty and Harry told about how much food they have to provide?

- 5) Does Harry think Pierre will eat very little?

- 6) How many meals per day does Harry eat? Can you name them?

- 7) Who does Kirsty think will eat them out of house and home?

- 8) What are the three things Kirsty says are all they have to do for Pierre?

- 9) Does Harry think he'll have more or less free time when Pierre is with them?

- 10) What does Harry expect to still be able to do once a week?

- 11) Why does Kirsty think Harry is nervous?

- 12) Does Kirsty think Harry and Pierre will be friends?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en las páginas 257 + 258]







AT THE BARBER'S

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

Barber: Take a seat. Right, so what can I do for ya?

Mike: **Short back and sides** please, but not too short. I don't want to show the whole world my **receding hairline** now, do I?

Barber: OK, fair enough.

Mike: So, did you see the boxing on the tele last night? What a match!

Barber: Yeah, didn't Lex do well? I can't believe how hard he was hitting his opponent in the final stages.

Mike: I know, I mean where did he get his energy from? He was like a bulldog right until the end.

Barber: **Tilt** your head forward a bit please mate.

Mike: OK.

Barber: He made me proud to be British. Did you see that left **hook** just before the bell? It nearly **knocked him out for six**.

Mike: Tell me about it. And that **blow to the face** at the start of the second round was a beauty.

Barber: Ah yes, but that was in the third round. The second round was a bit **dull**. They were being too defensive and not connecting their hits.

Mike: Ah yes, that's true. So do you think Lex can **make it all the way**?

Barber: Should I give your **sideburns** a quick **trim**?

Mike: Go on then.

Barber: I think Lex can do it, but he does need more experience, that's for sure. I'm not sure how he'll get on against the current champion. He might be **out of his depth**.

Mike: I see what you're saying, but he is in great form. I'm sure he can go all the way.

Barber: So how does that look?

Mike: Cheers mate, **the Mrs** will be happy with that and my hairline isn't on display!

Barber: That'll be three pounds please mate.

Mike: Here you go and thanks a lot.



PISTA 53A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando mientras se oye el sonido de fondo de una peluquería.

PISTA 53B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>short back and sides</i>	corto por los lados y por atrás; un corte de pelo típico para hombres en Gran Bretaña
<i>receding hairline</i>	entradas
<i>to tilt</i>	inclinarse
<i>hook</i>	gancho en boxeo
<i>to knock someone out for six</i>	dejar KO
<i>blow to the face</i>	un golpe a la cara
<i>dull</i>	aburrido/a
<i>to make it, to go all the way</i>	llegar a la final y ganarla
<i>sideburns</i>	patillas
<i>trim</i>	recorte
<i>out of his depth</i>	fuera de su categoría
<i>the Mrs</i>	mi mujer, mi esposa

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What type of haircut does Mike want?

- 2) What doesn't he want the world to see?

- 3) What did both the barber and Mike watch on television last night?

- 4) What's the name of the boxer they were supporting?

- 5) What can't the barber believe about the fight?

- 6) What animal does Mike compare the boxer to?

- 7) What does the barber want Mike to do with his head?

- 8) How did the boxer make the barber feel?

- 9) What happened just before the bell?

- 10) What did it nearly do?

- 11) How entertaining was the second round of the fight?

- 12) What does the barber ask to trim?

- 13) Does the barber believe the boxer can win the championship?

- 14) Who will be happy with Mike's new haircut?

- 15) How much did it cost?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 258]







WE NEED TO TALK

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

- Mark:** Amanda, listen, we need to talk. Sit down for a second.
- Amanda:** What's up?
- Mark:** How can I say this to you? I know you're head over heels in love with Craig, but the thing is...
- Amanda:** What?!
- Mark:** I can't stand him! I've tried to like him **for your sake**, but it's impossible. Sometimes I just want to tell him to get lost! Ugh! Phew! You don't know how good it feels to **get that off my chest**! You wouldn't believe how long I've been **bottling that up**!
- Amanda:** But, what are you saying? Craig speaks really highly of you! He always tells me how glad he is that I have a friend like you!
- Mark:** I'm sorry Mandy, but the feeling isn't mutual! It's just that he's so rude to you! I remember the first day that I met him. He **had a go** at you in front of everyone over something stupid, and you just **sat there and took it**! Can't you see how obnoxious he is?
- Amanda:** Listen Mark! I haven't felt this way about anyone for a long time. The last thing I need is one of my best friends planting seeds of doubt in my head. I really want this one to work Mark! I deserve a good man!
- Mark:** Of course you do! I just think you could do much better! In all honesty, I can't stand his company anymore, and you two are always together because he doesn't like you going out without other people! This is the first time in months that I've had the chance to be alone with you!
- Amanda:** Please, just try and like him for my sake!
- Mark:** Fine! But I think you should know that he **undervalues** you and he tries to make you believe that you're so lucky to be with him, as if you were the chosen one or something, when in fact, he's the lucky one by far!
- Amanda:** Aw! That's a nice thing to say! But look, I know he isn't the best guy in the world, but he does make me happy, and when things are good, they're really good!



PISTA 54A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando mientras se oye el sonido de fondo de un restaurante.

PISTA 54B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>for one's sake</i>	por el propio bien de alguien
<i>to get something off one's chest</i> ...	desahogarse
<i>to bottle up</i>	reprimir emociones/sentimientos, etc.
<i>to have a go at (someone)</i>	echarle la bronca a alguien
<i>to sit there and take it</i>	tragar con lo que te digan
<i>to undervalue</i>	subestimar
<i>to stand up for oneself</i>	defenderse
<i>to stand up to</i>	resistirse/enfrentarse a alguien
<i>to get to the end of one's tether</i>	ser el colmo de algo
<i>to tell someone what's what</i>	ponerle a alguien las cosas en su sitio, ponerle a alguien los puntos sobre las íes



- Mark:** And when things are bad, they're awful!
- Amanda:** I promise you, I am **standing up for myself** when he's rude!
- Mark:** Well, I hope for your sake that you really are standing up for yourself! It's just that there have been occasions in which he's put you down and you've just sat there without saying a thing.
- Amanda:** Listen, like I said, I do **stand up** to him! When I **get to the end of my tether** and I **tell him what's what**, he backs down because he knows he's gone too far!
- Mark:** Yeah, but you're such a nice person. It's not in your nature to argue!

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What is Mark asking Amanda to do?

- 2) What are Mark's feelings toward Craig?

- 3) What does he want to tell him to do sometimes?

- 4) How does Craig speak about Mark?

- 5) How did Amanda react once when he had a go at her in front of everyone?

- 6) What is the last thing that Amanda needs?

- 7) What else can't Mark stand anymore?

- 8) Why are the two of them always together?

- 9) According to Mark, what does Craig try to make Amanda believe?

- 10) What does Amanda promise Mark?

- 11) What does Mark hope?

- 12) What's happened on some occasions?

- 13) What is it not in Amanda's nature to do?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 258]



55A 55B FLIRTING

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

Courtney: Hello, have you met my friend Britney?
Britney: Hi there! I'm Britney. How are you doing?
Brad: Fine thanks, I'm Brad. Cracking party, isn't it?
Courtney: Oh! Well look at that! It looks like Tim needs a hand with the champagne. See you two later. [Whispers to Britney] Good luck **twinkle toes!**
Britney: So, hi! That's a **neat shirt** you've got on! Did you buy it from Bush and Pear? Oh, I love Bush and Pear!
Brad: No, it was a present from my sister. I'm not sure where she got it from.
Britney: Oh! It feels so soft! Hmm it feels like silk! So, how do you know Tim?
Brad: He's my brother's friend's auntie's neighbour.
Britney: Ha, ha [Nervous laughter] you're so funny!
Brad: I'm afraid **I don't follow you**.
Britney: I mean it's hilarious! There are so many people here from all over the place!
Brad: Yeah, I guess, so who do you know here?
Britney: Well my friend Courtney brought me. I had other options obviously, I mean, like, I have so many friends, but I thought I'd come and **hang out** here for a bit. Well I wouldn't have come, if Courtney hadn't **twisted my arm**.
Brad: Pardon? I can't hear a thing because of the music.
Britney: I said I wouldn't have come, if Courtney hadn't twisted my arm.
Brad: Ah, OK. How long are you guys going to stay here for?
Britney: Well, we'll see how it goes. If things stay interesting, I might even stay all night long. I mean, I know Courtney will want me to stay till the end.
Brad: Courtney **looks cool**. Do you know if she's seeing anyone at the moment?
Britney: Yeah, she's Tim's girlfriend!
Brad: I should've guessed! She's too pretty to be single.
Britney: Oh well! **There are plenty more fish in the sea!** I'm sure there are other pretty girls here who aren't in a relationship. Maybe closer than you think!
Brad: Yeah, maybe. Right, so I'm going to get a drink at the bar. See you around dude.



PISTA 55A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando en una fiesta ¡y se oye música rock al fondo!

PISTA 55B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

twinkle toes cariño
a neat shirt una camisa bonita
I don't follow you no te entiendo
to hang out pasar un rato
to twist someone's arm convencerle a alguien
looks cool parece divertido/a
There are plenty more fish in the sea! ¡Hay mucho más donde elegir!

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) Who introduced Britney to Brad?

- 2) According to Brad, how is the party going?

- 3) What's Courtney's excuse for leaving the conversation?

- 4) What does Britney compliment Brad on?

- 5) What does she say it feels like?

- 6) Who does Brad know at the party?

- 7) What does Britney find to be hilarious?

- 8) Who brought Britney to the party?

- 9) What does Britney say that Brad didn't hear?

- 10) How long does Courtney want her to stay?

- 11) What does Brad ask about Courtney?

- 12) Who is she seeing?

- 13) What does Brad say about Courtney regarding this?

- 14) What does Britney say there are more of?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 258]







AT THE FOOD MARKET

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Louise: Ahh! There's nothing I love more than going to the food market! And this week all the stalls are specializing in French food! I'm totally **in my element**! We need to get some quiches, some cheese, some olives...

Nathan: **Whatever floats your boat**, Louise! But I couldn't think of anything worse than **traipsing through** all these crowds, pushing and shoving all the time! I'd much rather just stay at home.

Louise: Oh come on, Nathan! Don't **put a damper on things**! I really wish you could appreciate the buzz of the market the same way I do!

Nathan: Anyway, where shall we start? We're a bit pushed for time you know. We're meeting Monica and Andy for lunch, don't forget. Shall we just get a quiche for later and hit a couple of stalls before heading off?

Louise: Oh! Let's go to that stall over there! The smell of cheese is pulling me towards it like a magnet!

Nathan: You've got to be kidding! You know I'm not a cheese person! Besides, it looks expensive, and we're a bit pushed for money.

Louise: What are you talking about? We've just sold the car and the money's cleared into our account already! Come on! I'm not suggesting we go crazy!

Nathan: Fine. [A few seconds go by] **What the...?** Those guys have just walked up and pushed in! I have half a mind to pull them to one side and...

Louise: Oh don't start Nathan! Besides, I haven't decided what I want yet.

Nathan: It's just so annoying when people just push in like that! It's really disrespectful. I'm going to say something!

Louise: Please honey, don't cause a scene! You don't want to push your luck again! They're twice your size! They could **floor you** easily! [Gasp] What are you pulling your sleeves up for?! Oh God, no!

Nathan: Excuse me! Do you both realize that we were here before you? Maybe you didn't notice that the back of the queue is over there.

PISTA 56A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio puede aumentar por el ruido de fondo, ya que están en un mercado.

PISTA 56B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>in one's element</i>	como un pez en el agua
<i>whatever floats your boat</i>	como te plazca
<i>to traipse through a place</i>	caminar penosamente por un sitio
<i>to put a damper on things</i>	aguar algo
<i>What the...?</i>	esta es una frase inconclusa, y se puede completar usando palabras como " hell ", " heck ", etc. para decir '¿Qué demonios?!'
<i>to floor someone</i>	derrumbar a alguien
<i>I just want the earth</i>	
<i>to swallow me whole right</i>	¡Tierra trágame!

TEMA: AT THE FOOD MARKET



Louise: Nathan, please don't! Oh my God, this is so embarrassing. Everyone's staring at us. Just leave it! I don't even know what I want anyway. Oh God, **I just want the earth to swallow me whole right now.**

Nathan: Look Louise, it's the principle that counts. We were here first and they just came along and pushed right in. Why shouldn't I say something? I'm tired of being pushed around and walked all over.

Louise: Nathan, don't! They're leaving now anyway. Sorry about that guys! Maybe we should go too. I can't handle all the looks we're getting from everyone here. Did you really think that fighting would have solved anything?

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What are all the stalls specializing in this week?

- 2) How does Nathan feel about markets?

- 3) Why are Nathan and Louise pushed for time?

- 4) What is the smell of cheese doing to Louise?

- 5) What is their current financial situation, according to Nathan?

- 6) What's just upset Nathan?

- 7) What does he have half a mind to do?

- 8) What doesn't Nathan want to do, according to Louise?

- 9) Why doesn't he want to push his luck, according to Louise?

- 10) After telling Nathan that the guys could floor him, what did Louise ask Nathan?

- 11) What did the guys come along and do, according to Nathan?

- 12) What's Nathan tired of?

- 13) What can't Louise handle at this point?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 258]





HANGING AROUND

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



- Chris:** Hey man! **How's it hanging?**
- Devon:** Chris dude! I'm good. Not up to much.
- Chris:** [Inquisitively] What are you doing in this neighbourhood?
- Devon:** I'm just **hanging around**. I'm hoping to run into this girl Maria, I think her house is around here.
- Chris:** [With a suspicious tone] OK... You're hanging around this girl's neighbourhood. That sounds a little creepy dude.
- Devon:** No, no. It's not like that. I've been **hanging out with** this girl for a couple of weeks now. She's awesome; I think she might be **the one**!
- Chris:** OK. Well, why don't you just call her and arrange to hang out rather than hang around the streets hoping to run into her?
- Devon:** That's the thing. The last time we met I sort of **screwed up** and she isn't answering my calls.
- Chris:** Dude, what did you do?
- Devon:** Well, she asked me why I like hanging out with her so much and **I don't know for the life of me** why I said it, but I said that it was because she reminded me of my ex.
- Chris:** [Laughing] You didn't! Man, that's hilarious!
- Devon:** Thanks for your support Chris. It's good to know **you've got my back**!
- Chris:** Sorry dude, that's just too funny. Seriously though, I think you should get out of here. You're hanging around Mr McNulty's store. It's well known that he hates it when kids like us hang around his shop.
- Devon:** Really? Why? What's his problem?
- Chris:** I don't know, but I've heard that he's even called the cops and reported kids for **loitering**.
- Devon:** [Incredulous] For loitering?! You've got to be kidding! But "to loiter" means to hang around doing nothing. You can report someone for doing absolutely nothing? That's ridiculous.
- Chris:** I agree. But he's looking right at us. I think I'm going **to split**.
- Devon:** Aw come on Chris, wait with me for a little while. I'm sure Maria will come by any minute now!
- Chris:** Sorry man, you're on your own this time.
- Devon:** Alright, I'll go too. I've got to check out some of her other **hangouts** anyway.
- Chris:** You know Devon, some people would call this stalking.

PISTA 57A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que los chicos hablan en medio de una calle con mucho ruido por el tráfico y los peatones que pasan.

PISTA 57B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>How's it hanging?</i>	¿Qué tal?
<i>to hang around</i>	esperar sin hacer nada
<i>to hang out with someone</i>	pasar tiempo con alguien
<i>the one</i>	la persona con quien uno quiere pasar toda la vida
<i>to screw up</i>	meter la pata
<i>I don't know for the life of me</i>	no tengo ni idea
<i>to have someone's back</i>	apoyar a alguien
<i>to loiter</i>	holgazanear
<i>to split</i>	salir de/dejar un sitio rápidamente
<i>hangout</i>	lugar frecuentado

TEMA: HANGING AROUND

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What is Devon doing hanging around that neighbourhood?

- 2) What does Chris think about Devon hanging around Maria's neighbourhood?

- 3) Does Devon know Maria?

- 4) How long have they been hanging out with each other for?

- 5) Does Devon see a future with Maria?

- 6) Why doesn't Devon just call Maria to arrange to hang out?

- 7) What did Devon do to upset Maria?

- 8) What does everyone know about Mr McNulty?

- 9) What has Mr McNulty reported kids for in the past?

- 10) What's loitering?

- 11) Does Chris agree to hang around for a while with Devon?

- 12) What does Devon have to check out?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en las páginas 258 + 259]





58A 58B GOSSIPING

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

- Mavis:** How you doing Bev love? You're hanging out the washing again I see? It's never-ending in your house, is it?
- Bev:** Tell me about it Mavis! My George must be the clumsiest man in Manchester. There's never a day when he doesn't come home from work with some oil stain or grease mark on his clothes.
- Mavis:** And there's never a morning when he doesn't go off to work **spick and span** once again. I hope he knows how lucky he is to have you!
- Bev:** Oh, he knows all right. Well, did you hear that Mabel in 3B has thrown her Frank out? The whole building must have heard them screaming at each other on Thursday night.
- Mavis:** I heard! They have no shame. They're always **airing their dirty laundry in public**!
- Bev:** Do you know what caused the fight this time?
- Mavis:** Apparently, Frank's been **having it off with** Gladys in 1A while Mabel's out at Bingo.
- Bev:** He hasn't? The **dirty old dog**! Mabel should **wash her hands of him** once and for all!
- Mavis:** I don't know what Frank sees in that Gladys anyway. You know Francis in 5A? Well, she told me that she used to bring Gladys's post up to her on a Monday morning and sometimes, she'd **stop in** for a cup of tea. She said the house was always filthy and that the tea cups were always grimy!
- Bev:** Really? But Gladys looks like she would be **house-proud**. She's always dressed so immaculately. Who was it that said her house was filthy?
- Mavis:** I told you; Francis, in 5A.
- Bev:** Oh, that Francis! You can't trust a word she says. She's always got a story about someone!
- Mavis:** I know. Imagine gossiping like that about your neighbours! It's just disgraceful.
- Bev:** Well, at least you and I don't get caught up in that nonsense, eh Mavis?
- Mavis:** Exactly love. Well, **I best be off**. Willy'll be looking for his dinner soon.
- Bev:** Alright love, take care.

PISTA 58A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que las vecinas están manteniendo la conversación mientras se asoman por las ventanas de sus pisos.

PISTA 58B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>spick and span</i>	como los chorros del oro
<i>to air one's dirty laundry in public</i>	hablar de asuntos personales en público
<i>to have it off with someone</i>	tener relaciones con alguien
<i>dirty old dog</i>	hombre con mal carácter y escasa moralidad
<i>to wash one's hands of someone</i>	renunciar a las responsabilidades que se tienen respecto a alguien
<i>to stop in</i>	pasar por una casa/tienda, etc.
<i>to be house-proud</i>	ser meticuloso/a con la limpieza
<i>I best be off</i>	debo ir

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y **responde a las preguntas.**



- 1) Why does Bev think George is the clumsiest man in Manchester?
- 2) What has Mabel in 3B done?
- 3) When did the whole building hear Mabel and Frank screaming at each other?
- 4) Why did Mabel and Frank fight?
- 5) Where has Mabel been while Frank's been having it off with Gladys?
- 6) Does Bev think that Mabel should give Frank another chance?
- 7) Who told Mavis that Gladys's house is filthy?
- 8) What condition did Francis say Gladys's teacups were in?
- 9) What does Gladys look like to Bev?
- 10) Why did Bev think that Gladys was house-proud?
- 11) Why can't you trust a word that Francis says?
- 12) Why does Mavis have to go?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 259]

[illegible]



AT THE OFFICE

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

Janice: That was humiliating, I've never seen Mack **give us such a hard time**.

Jimmy: I know, he really **lost it** in there!

Janice: Something must be up. We've had worse quarters than this before and received nothing more than a routine slap on the wrist.

Jimmy: Maybe those rumours about Murtagh suing for unfair dismissal are true?

Janice: Could be. The last thing we need right now is more bad publicity.

Jimmy: And Murtagh drives a hard bargain, I can't see an out-of-court settlement being cheap.

Janice: Well, **something's getting to** Mack.

Jimmy: Either way, he's got a point about the new line of services; they should have sold a lot more by now.

Janice: Well, look, we've got to think about how we can **shake up** the sales force. We've been saying for ages that we need to start from the ground up and completely review our structures, our procedures...

Jimmy: ...the number of employees we have?

Janice: [Sighs] No, I really don't want **to go down that road** unless it's absolutely necessary. We've got a lot of good people and I think **layoffs** would be counterproductive right now, they'd probably reduce morale even further.

Jimmy: OK, but we need to work out how to drive the sales teams harder. They're capable of so much more and a lot of them seem to be **slacking off** recently.

Janice: I agree, let's schedule a meeting **asap** with all the regional heads of sales.

Jimmy: Should we get finance involved?

Janice: Not yet, I don't want those **bloodsuckers** involved until we've got a rough idea of what we're going to do.

Jimmy: [Laughs] Fair enough! Tom will just start **banging on** about driving down **overheads** again.



PISTA 59A RUIDO DE FONDO

Oficina.

PISTA 59B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>to give someone a hard time</i>	.....	hacérselo pasar mal a alguien, echar la bronca a alguien
<i>to lose it</i>	.....	enojarse
<i>something's getting to him</i>	.....	algo le está molestando
<i>to shake up</i>	.....	cambiar radicalmente
<i>I don't want to go down that road</i>	.....	no quiero ir por ese camino
<i>layoffs</i>	.....	despidos
<i>to slack off</i>	.....	holgazanear
<i>asap</i>	.....	abreviatura de " as soon as possible " ('lo antes posible')
<i>bloodsuckers</i>	.....	sanguijuelas (en sentido figurado)
<i>to bang on about something</i>	.....	hablar mucho sobre algo, dar la lata con algo
<i>overheads</i>	.....	gastos generales/estructurales



Janice: Exactly, that's all I need right now.

Jimmy: By the way, what was all that stuff Mack was saying about the Asian market? I didn't really know what he was driving at.

Janice: They're planning to expand into Singapore and Taiwan.

Jimmy: Well, that's some good news at least.

Janice: As long as I don't get assigned to oversee it, then yes, it should be!

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) According to Jimmy, how did Mack act in the meeting?

- 2) Why does Janice think that something is up?

- 3) Which rumour do they mention?

- 4) What does Jimmy think wouldn't be cheap for the company?

- 5) What changes are Janice and Jimmy thinking of making?

- 6) What is Janice reluctant to consider regarding shaking up the sales force?

- 7) Why is she reluctant to consider this?

- 8) What criticism does Jimmy give about the sales force?

- 9) Who are the bloodsuckers that Janice doesn't want in the meeting?

- 10) What does Jimmy say that Tom from finance will bang on about?

- 11) What plans does the company have regarding Asia?

- 12) How does Janice feel about the plans?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 259]





THE EMAIL

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Boss: Michelle, my office now!

Michelle: Hi, is everything OK?

Boss: I want to know the reason why you didn't show up to the meeting this morning.

Michelle: Excuse me, what meeting? I didn't hear anything about a meeting.

Boss: The meeting that HR organized regarding company objectives.

Michelle: Well, I didn't get told about any meetings; otherwise I would have attended it.

Boss: **Don't give me that nonsense!** An email was sent last Friday to all employees, including you, and you were the only one not to show up.

Michelle: **With all due respect**, I think there must have been a mistake. I'm fairly sure I didn't get an email from anyone.

Boss: Look! I'm telling you that you received it! In future, I expect you to check your emails regularly and make sure you do not miss any departmental meetings. Do I make myself clear?

Michelle: Yes.

Boss: This is not the first time **you've made a pig's ear of things**. I'll be keeping my eye on you and if you continue to be so inefficient, we will seriously have to consider disciplinary action.

Michelle: I'm sorry, but I think that's a bit unfair. I've worked here for five years and **I've given it my all** since day one. I've shown you time and time again that I am a key employee for this company and I made a lot of money for the sales team. It's unfair to penalize me because of a problem probably to do with my inbox. My emails have been **playing up** lately.

Boss: Well, it seems a bit strange that everybody else managed to make it to the meeting. You might see yourself as a key employee Michelle, but as far as I'm concerned, key employees show up to meetings.
[Pause] Now get back out there and show me **what you're made of!**

PISTA 60A RUIDO DE FONDO

Fotocopias, gente hablando, impresora, puertas cerrando, etc.

PISTA 60B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

Don't give me that nonsense! ¡No me digas tonterías!

with all due respect con todo el respeto

you've made a pig's ear of this has hecho un desastre de las cosas

I've given it my all he dado lo mejor de mí

to play up funcionar mal

what you're made of lo que eres capaz de hacer

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) Where does the boss want to speak to Michelle?

- 2) What does the boss want to know?

- 3) Why didn't Michelle go to the meeting?

- 4) Who organized the meeting and what was it about?

- 5) When was the email sent?

- 6) Who was it sent to?

- 7) What does the boss expect Michelle to do in the future?

- 8) Is this the first time she's made a mess of things?

- 9) What will happen if she continues to be inefficient?

- 10) Why does Michelle think it's unfair?

- 11) What might have been the reason she didn't receive the email?

- 12) Why does that seem strange to the boss?

- 13) According to the boss, what do key employees do?

- 14) What does the boss want Michelle to do?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 259]







THE EXHIBITION

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

Kevin: Oh! What a great collection of artifacts! I'm so glad you dragged me to this exhibit in the end!

Rachel: It's great, isn't it! I love Egyptian artifacts... Kevin, what are you doing? Don't touch those old vases. The security guard's **giving you daggers!**

Kevin: But where does it say that we can't touch anything? The exhibits are so small that you need to touch them in order to be able to examine them properly!

Rachel: They're displayed behind a velvet rope and it's implied that you mustn't touch anything. Honestly, Kevin, I can't take you anywhere. You're always touching everything!

Kevin: Well, if they didn't want anyone to touch the exhibits, then they'd keep them in a glass case, wouldn't they?

Rachel: Well, if everyone were like you, all the artifacts would be in a glass case. Put it down for goodness sake!

Kevin: Why are you getting so **touchy**? It's not as if I'm going to chuck it against the wall and smash it. I'm just having a look at it!

Rachel: Just put that vase down, or else the security guard will **chuck** us out!

Kevin: Wow! Look at this jug! It must be thousands of years old!

Rachel: Kevin, I really wouldn't touch that if I were you. It looks like it's protected by laser beams. You might set off the alarm... [Alarm goes off].

Kevin: Ah!!! Let's get out of here!

Rachel: Well, at least put the jug back!! [Smash] Oh my God! You've just dropped the damn thing!

Kevin: Oh God, what am I gonna do?!

Rachel: [Shouting] **Pull yourself together**, Kevin! For goodness sake! How old are you, 12? Why do you have to touch everything all the time? That jug must have been worth loads! Now we're going to have to remortgage the house in order to pay for it!

Kevin: Just run!

Rachel: I'm not running. We'll just have **to face the music**. Perhaps the jug can be glued back together. Honestly Kevin, never again! You have got to grow up!



PISTA 61A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que se oye a mucha gente comentando la exposición.

PISTA 61B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>to give someone daggers</i>	lanzar una mirada asesina a alguien
<i>touchy</i>	susceptible
<i>to chuck out</i>	expulsar
<i>to pull oneself together</i>	calmarse cuando uno está en pánico
<i>to face the music</i>	enfrentar las consecuencias

TEMA: THE EXHIBITION

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) Why is Kevin glad?

- 2) What does Rachel tell Kevin not to do?

- 3) What's Kevin's opinion regarding the artifacts?

- 4) What are the artifacts displayed behind?

- 5) How would the artifacts be displayed if everyone were like Kevin?

- 6) What does Kevin ask Rachel, regarding her mood?

- 7) What does Rachel then tell him to do, and why?

- 8) How old must the jug be?

- 9) What does Rachel advise Kevin to do when he's about to touch it?

- 10) Why?

- 11) Then what happens?

- 12) What does Rachel tell Kevin to do after he starts panicking?

- 13) After Rachel refuses to run, what does she say they'll have to do?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 259]







THE NEW ALBUM

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

Interviewer: So, Kris, thanks so much for agreeing to talk to us. This is your first interview in nearly two years, isn't it?

Musician: Yeah, that's right. This is my first interview for a long time. I've been concentrating on the music, ya know, getting the album together.

Interviewer: That's the new album, "Luv 4 Sale", which was released on your own **label**, wasn't it?

Musician: Yeah, that's right.

Interviewer: And why did you decide to end your relationship with your record company?

Musician: Well, it was about keeping my integrity as an artist, ya know? I didn't want to rush the creative process because of pressure from the bosses from my music label to sell albums. It's all about money for them. But I'm not a product for sale and I suppose I didn't want to sell out, ya know? I mean, I didn't want to put out this album that said nothing, that was just to make money. Ya know, I got sick of, like, the music business being just about sales figures. It's like the music has got lost. I needed to create something I was proud of.

Interviewer: Mmmmm. So those two years out of **the public eye** was a very creative time for you?

Musician: Yeah. Sometimes when you really want to create, you need to just, like, **shut yourself off**, ya know? Feel whatever you're feeling and just, ya know, let the process **take its course**. Have you listened to it?

Interviewer: I've been lucky enough to have an advance copy of the album, and I loved it. I was really moved by it. But it's such a departure from the previous album.

Musician: Thanks. I mean, it has a totally different vibe, ya know. It came from a very different place.

Interviewer: It really shows a lot of growth.

Musician: Well, ya know, the music just kinda happens, but the lyrics, well, that comes from a different place. Somewhere deeper, ya know? I was in a pretty dark place a couple of years back and...

Interviewer: So the album was influenced by the **breakdown** of your marriage?

Musician: Yeah, partly. But ya know, it's also, like, a commentary on the consumerism of modern life. Ya know, the way money can buy anything and people will, like, sell anything for the right price, even love.



PISTA 62A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando frente a un grupo de fans.

PISTA 62B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

label	sello discográfico
the public eye	el escaparate
to shut oneself off	aislarse
to take its course	dejar que siga su curso
breakdown	fracaso
a world away	muy distinto
to text	enviar mensajes de texto
text speak	la forma de escribir en un mensaje de texto

TEMA: THE NEW ALBUM



Interviewer: It is quite a dark album. **A world away** from your previous albums.

Musician: Yeah, but this album is quite positive too, ya know. It's also a celebration of, like, language and how it always evolves. And how, even though we're all into consumerism and stuff, that's not always bad and we are finding new ways of communication. Like mobile phones and **texting**, and ya know, the way that this product has completely changed our language cos of how we write it now.

Interviewer: I see! So that's why love in the title is spelled luv and the word four is replaced by the number.

Musician: Yeah, exactly. It's **text speak**. It just like combines the two main influences behind the album.

Interviewer: Wow. That's really special. I wish we could keep talking, but we've run out of time. Well, thank you again for being here today. It's been an honour to interview a rock legend.

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) How long has it been since Kris last gave an interview?

- 2) What has Kris been doing during this time?

- 3) Why did Kris leave his record company?

- 4) Does the interviewer like the album?

- 5) What other comments does the interviewer make about it?

- 6) What personal event influenced the album?

- 7) What else influenced the album?

- 8) What does the interviewer think the mood of the album is?

- 9) What is Kris's response?

- 10) According to Kris, what is a positive aspect of consumerism?

- 11) What examples does Kris give?

- 12) How is the title of the album spelled?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en las páginas 259 + 260]





GOING AWOL

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



- Mark:** Hey Cat, have you heard that Jim's **gone AWOL**?
- Cat:** What?! When did that happen?
- Mark:** He just **took off** a couple of days ago without saying anything. No one's heard from him since.
- Cat:** You mean to say he just took off, just like that? Come to think of it, I haven't seen him in a while. I just assumed he was on leave.
- Mark:** Well, the rumour going round the office is that he was having an affair with one of the IT girls and they had a falling out.
- Cat:** Oh, what a scandal! I can't wait to tell Susie about this! Do you know which one it is? I bet it's Sarah, isn't it? You know she's always **had a thing for** Jim.
- Mark:** Oh Cat, you're such a gossip! Please don't say anything, you know Jim's one of my best mates here and I don't want him to think I've been talking about him behind his back.
- Cat:** Me? A gossip? I think you ought to take a look in the mirror, Mark. Talk about **pot calling the kettle black**!
- Mark:** [Offended] OK Cat, I was just making conversation. I'll leave you to get on with your work if you prefer.
- Cat:** Calm down, Mark, I was only joking. So, am I right? Is it Sarah?
- Mark:** I'm not saying anything.
- Cat:** Ah, it is her! I knew it. So why did they **fall out**?
- Mark:** I'm not sure, but apparently she was planning to leave him for someone else.
- Cat:** Oh, this just gets juicier and juicier!
- Mark:** Seriously though, Cat, not a word to anyone about this.
- Cat:** You know me, Mark, I'm known for my discretion. Anyway, I'd better get on with my work before the boss catches me.
- Mark:** [Sarcastic tone] Yeah, your discretion is legendary. **I'll leave you to it** then.

PISTA 63A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que de fondo se escuchan teléfonos sonando, aparte del ruido propio de la oficina.

PISTA 63B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

to go AWOL (absent without leave)	ausentarse sin permiso
to take off	irse
to have a thing for someone	sentir algo por alguien
pot calling the kettle black	le dijo la sartén al cazo
to fall out	pelearse
I'll leave you to it	te dejo (continuar) con lo que hacías

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What has Jim done?

- 2) When did Jim go?

- 3) What did Cat think Jim was doing?

- 4) According to the rumours, what had Jim been doing?

- 5) Why did Jim leave?

- 6) Why does Cat think it's Sarah?

- 7) Why doesn't Mark want Cat to say anything?

- 8) What idiom does Cat use to accuse Mark of being a gossip?

- 9) Why do they think Jim and Sarah fell out?

- 10) What does Cat claim to be known for?

- 11) Why must Cat get on with her work?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 260]





64A 64B POKING

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Bill: Sue, babes, what's wrong with you? Why are you **giving me the silent treatment**?

Sue: Bill, don't give me that! You know perfectly why!

Bill: Were the flowers I sent you for your birthday the wrong type?

Sue: Bill, are you serious?

Bill: About what? About us? Of course I am! You're my babes. I love you.

Sue: No, are you seriously trying to tell me that you don't know why I'm mad at you?

Bill: Erm, I'm really sorry, but I have no idea. Explain it to me and maybe I'll be able **to shed some light on the whole thing**. There has to be a misunderstanding.

Sue: Well, I know! I know about you and Kelly. I'm **livid**!

Bill: What? But there's nothing going on between me and Kelly, what are you talking about?

Sue: Your Facemag account was on and I noticed **she poked you**. How could you do this to me, Bill? We have two precious kids and we've been married for five years! Why?! Why?!

Bill: I thought she was just **giving me a nudge**, like another way of saying hi or something.

Sue: But you poked her back!

Bill: Isn't it considered rude not to? Sue, I don't want to cause problems with the people I work with. Isn't poking someone on Facemag another way of saying hi? I poked your sister last week and she didn't seem to mind.

Sue: Since when have people said hi by poking?! And Kelly also sent you a message on your wall! I saw it the other day!

Bill: She was just asking me if I'd had a nice holiday. Where's the harm in that?

Sue: You were also **tagged** in a photo with her.

Bill: It was **a work night out**! There were other people in the same photo.

Sue: Hmm, maybe I am overreacting.

Bill: Sweetie, my Facemag relationship status says I'm married to you. If I didn't love you, I would have changed it to "it's complicated" or something.

Sue: I guess you're right. But please, stop poking her and my sister.

Bill: Fair enough. Come here and give me a big kiss!

PISTA 64A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que de fondo se escucha una telenovela en la televisión.

PISTA 64B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

to give someone the silent treatment	ignorar a alguien a propósito
to shed some light on the whole thing	arrojar luz sobre un tema
livid	enfadadísimo/a
to poke	dar un toque en las redes sociales, dar a alguien con un dedo
to give a nudge	dar un codazo
tagged	etiquetado/a
a work night out	una noche de copas con compañeros de trabajo

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What's Sue giving Bill?

- 2) Does he know why she's doing this?

- 3) Is Bill serious about their relationship?

- 4) Who does Sue think Bill's flirting with?

- 5) Who poked who?

- 6) How many kids do they have?

- 7) How long have they been married?

- 8) What did Bill think Kelly was doing?

- 9) Who did he poke last week?

- 10) What did the message Kelly send him on his wall say?

- 11) What is Bill's excuse when Sue says she saw him tagged in a photo with Kelly?

- 12) What does Sue admit in the end?

- 13) What would Bill have changed his Facemag relationship status to if he didn't love Sue?

- 14) What does Sue want Bill to not do in the future?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 260]







PLAYING POKER

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Bobby: OK, I'm in, gimme some chips.
Tod: Oh! So you're gonna play now?
Bobby: Yeah, I decided I don't actually feel too bad about taking all your money!
Jack: OK, enough **chit-chat**, let's get this thing started.
[A few rounds later...]
Bobby: Let's see, let's see, dum-da-dum... OK, gimme two cards.
Jack: Tod?
Tod: I'm good.
Jack: OK... I'll... stick with what I've got...
Bobby: OK, fellas, I'm in for a hundred.
Tod: Pfffft, I'm out.
Bobby: Jack?
Jack: I see your hundred, and **raise** you another hundred.
Bobby: I know when someone's **bluffing**, and you, my friend, are **bluffing**.
Tod: Well, then **call his bluff** already!
Bobby: OK, I call. **Full house**!
Tod: [Whistles]
Jack: Read it and weep, Bobby my boy, **straight flush**!
Tod: Oh! No way!
Jack: Looks like you need to learn a thing or two about bluffing!
Bobby: Yeah, whatever. I'm done with this, let's call it a day...
Jack: Oh, come on! Where's all that **bravado** gone, huh?
Tod: Yeah, c'mon, Bobby, **you were on a roll** there for a while, just play a couple more hands, your luck'll change.
Bobby: Nah, I oughta call my wife, she'll be wondering where I am. **Cash me in**, Jacky.
Jack: C'moooooon!
Bobby: OK, one more then I'm off!

PISTA 65A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están jugando en una casa y de fondo se oye la tele.

PISTA 65B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>chit-chat</i>	cháchara
<i>to raise (gambling)</i>	subir la apuesta
<i>to bluff</i>	marcarse un farol
<i>to call someone's bluff</i>	poner a alguien en evidencia
<i>to call (poker)</i>	pedir a los demás que muestren su jugada, 'lo vemos', 'voy'
<i>full house</i>	full
<i>straight flush</i>	escalera de color
<i>bravado</i>	bravucón
<i>to be on a roll</i>	estar en racha
<i>to cash someone in</i>	cambiar las fichas de alguien por dinero

TEMA: PLAYING POKER

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What does Bobby want to do at the beginning?

- 2) What does Bobby say he doesn't feel bad about?

- 3) What phrase does Jack use to tell the other two to stop talking?

- 4) Does Bobby change any cards?

- 5) What does Bobby bet?

- 6) What does Tod do?

- 7) And what does Jack do?

- 8) What does Bobby think Jack is doing?

- 9) What hand does Bobby have?

- 10) What hand does Jack have?

- 11) After losing, what does Bobby want to do?

- 12) How do we know that Bobby was doing well earlier?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 260]







CAUGHT STEALING

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



- Fiona:** [On the phone] Honey, I've just had to pick Lauren up from the police station.
- Dominic:** Dear me! What happened? Did any harm come to our precious Lauren?
- Fiona:** No, darling, she was **caught stealing** again. Honestly, Dom, I never thought this would happen again. I blame it on that friend of hers, Sybil.
- Dominic:** Oh no! Not again! Didn't she learn her lesson last time she was caught stealing and we **grounded her** for a month? How could this have happened again?!
- Fiona:** Beats me!
- Dominic:** What did the police say?
- Fiona:** They **let her off** with a warning, but they said that if it ever happened again, she'd have to go to court.
- Dominic:** Did you tell her that she can't see Sybil ever again?
- Fiona:** No, I didn't. They've been best friends for years. What do you think would happen if we forced them not to see each other again? She'd just rebel! We'll just have to have a serious chat with Sybil's parents.
- Dominic:** Yes, you're probably right. Perhaps this summer we can send her to summer camp so that she can learn discipline. What do you think, Fiona?
- Fiona:** Oh! What a good idea! Did you hear that, Lauren? Dad thinks you should go to summer camp!
- Dominic:** What did she say to that?
- Fiona:** She just **scowled**. Honestly, the attitude of that girl!
- Dominic:** She'd probably **get a lot out of** the summer camp experience! Let's do it! Let's send her to camp! Then she'll never scowl at us again!
- Fiona:** Well, what we can do is talk about this more at home. Honestly, what happened to our baby? All we've ever done is try our best and she's never appreciated it!

PISTA 66A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que la conversación es por teléfono y no se oye muy bien.

PISTA 66B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escucharla conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>caught stealing</i>	pillado/a robando
<i>to ground someone</i>	castigar y no dejar salir de casa
<i>to let off</i>	soltar (una autoridad)
<i>to scowl</i>	poner mala cara
<i>to get a lot out of something</i>	sacar mucho provecho de algo
<i>to happen to be near a place</i>	estar cerca de un sitio por casualidad

TEMA: CAUGHT STEALING



Dominic: Well, at summer camp she'll learn discipline and responsibility. She'll also make long-lasting friendships. You wouldn't **happen to be near** the shopping centre, would you?

Fiona: Yes, I happen to be approaching one now. What do you need? I can pick it up for you now if you'd like.

Dominic: Get some summer camp brochures. Lauren at least needs to know that we're being serious about this! This summer camp thing is going to happen!

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) Where has Fiona had to pick Lauren up from?

- 2) What does Dominic want to know?

- 3) What had she been caught doing?

- 4) What did they do to punish her last time she was caught stealing?

- 5) What did the police say?

- 6) How long have Lauren and Sybil been best friends?

- 7) Where does Dominic suggest they send Lauren for the summer?

- 8) Why?

- 9) How did Lauren act when Fiona told her that her dad thought she should go to summer camp?

- 10) What does Fiona suggest they do when they get home?

- 11) What will she learn at summer camp according to Dominic?

- 12) What does Dominic then ask Fiona?

- 13) Why?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 260]



THE PIANO

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

Henry: OK, **easy does it**, one, two, three, push!

Stacey: It's no use, Henry. The piano just won't fit through the doorframe.

Henry: How about we remove the doorframe and then try again?

Stacey: No, the doorframe's tiny. Dear me! Why did Aunt Lisa leave me the grand piano in her **will**? She must have wondered how on earth it would fit in my house!

Henry: If we remove the legs, we should be able to get it to fit with no problems. Then we can screw them back on in the living room.

Stacey: The piano's huge! And it's about 150 years old! Besides, taking the legs off it wouldn't make any difference whatsoever! We'll have to see if it'll fit somewhere else.

Henry: How about right here in the hallway? It won't fit through any of the doorframes in this house, that's for sure. It's a miracle it even fit through the front door!

Stacey: Are you kidding me? Right here in the hallway? No way. You'd have to squeeze past the piano every time you wanted to leave the house! And what about the echoes in the hallway?

Henry: Well, it'll fit on the roof terrace. All we'd need is a **crane** and someone who knows how to operate them to lift it onto the roof for us!

Stacey: That's it! Oh Henry, you're a genius!

Henry: Honey, I was joking. There's no way we'd be able to keep it on the roof! What about when it rains?

Stacey: That's not a problem! We can cover it with a protective sheet then, but when the weather's good, we can have parties up there and I can play the piano for the guests!

Henry: Stacey, honey, I really don't know!

Stacey: Well, what do you suggest we do?

Henry: Sell it? It must **be worth a bob or two**!

Stacey: Are you joking? There's no way I'm selling it! It's a **family heirloom**. Aunt Lisa would **turn in her grave** if I sold it!



PISTA 67A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio está en que están hablando durante las Fallas de Valencia.

PISTA 67B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>easy does it!</i>	¡con calma!
<i>will</i>	testamento
<i>crane</i>	grúa
<i>to be worth a bob or two</i>	valer bastante dinero
<i>family heirloom</i>	reliquia de la familia
<i>to turn in one's grave</i>	levantar la cabeza (cuando uno ya está muerto)

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



1) What problem are Henry and Stacey having with the grand piano?

2) What does Henry then suggest they do?

3) But what's the problem with Henry's idea?

4) What does Stacey then ask herself?

5) What's the next suggestion that Henry makes?

6) What's wrong with that idea?

7) What's wrong with the idea of leaving the piano in the hallway?

8) Where will it fit undoubtedly?

9) What would they need to get it on to the roof terrace?

10) Does Stacey like that idea?

11) But, was Henry being serious?

12) What can they do when the weather's good?

13) Why doesn't Stacey like the idea of selling the piano?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 260]







THE GAS BILL

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Casey: Good morning, did you sleep well?

Bayley: So-so, I could hear the neighbors arguing at about three a.m., couldn't you?

Casey: No, what were they arguing about?

Bayley: Well, it seems Johnny didn't pay the gas bill and their gas has been **cut off**... I heard it all!

Casey: No! That's **awful**! Oh, but it reminds me... have you paid for the concert tickets yet? They need to be paid before tomorrow.

Bayley: Not yet, but don't worry, I've got it all under control. I'll pay for them online at work tomorrow.

Casey: Why haven't you paid for them yet? We booked them **ages ago** and the concert's next week. All you have to do is call or go online. I wouldn't mind paying for them, but you can't use a different card than the one you used to book them.

Bayley: It's fine! I told you I'd pay tomorrow. Anyway... what about poor Johnny and Sandra, without any gas?

Casey: Stop trying to change the subject. Johnny should have paid the bill, just like you should have paid for the tickets by now!

Bayley: I hardly think you can compare the two situations. If I don't pay for the tickets and we miss the concert, at least we'll be able to take a shower or use the oven! Poor Johnny! I'm sure he's missing his English breakfast today.

Casey: What do you mean "if I don't pay for the tickets"? You'd better be joking! You know that I've been waiting for this concert for nearly six months. Can't you pay on the phone now?

Bayley: Casey, just trust me. You won't miss the concert, I'll pay tomorrow. Calm down!

Casey: I don't understand why you have to make it difficult. If I were you, I'd just call now and then that would be the end of it.

Bayley: OK, I'll tell you why... I won free tickets, but I wanted it to be a surprise. That's why I haven't paid for them. Are you happy now?

Casey: Ah really? Where from? Are they VIP? Don't we have to pay for anything?

Bayley: No, everything **is on the house**, but you've **spoiled** the surprise now! I'm going next door to see if Johnny is OK.

PISTA 68A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando en la cocina y se oye el ruido de la radio.

PISTA 68B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>to cut off</i>	cortar
<i>awful</i>	horrible
<i>ages ago</i>	hace siglos
<i>to be on the house</i>	por cortesía de la casa
<i>to spoil</i>	arruinar





THE PARTY

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

Gaz: Who's got the rum?

Chris: Beats me. Josh, man, you had it earlier, where've you put it?

Josh: I left it in the kitchen next to the **blender**.

Gaz: Oh, oh, oh!! Turn it up! **The beat** on this track is **sweet**!

[Turns up music too loud]

Chris: Hey, turn it down! The neighbours'll call the cops!

Gaz: Alright, alright, **keep your hair on**!

Josh: He's right mate, **the old fogey** next door called the police last time I had a **get-together**. We'd better keep it down.

Gaz: Fine.

Josh: Right, Chris, can you **rustle up** a round of mojitos?

Gaz: Mojitos? **Ooh, la-di-dah!!!**

Chris: I'm with Josh, you can't beat a mojito when the weather's **sweltering** like this.

Gaz: Alright, **I'm up for something** a bit different. [Sarcastic] Hey, and why don't we paint our nails while we drink them?

Josh: [Laughs] You'd love that, wouldn't you! Looks like it's just you and me then, Chris.

Chris: By the way, when are the girls getting here?

Josh: Should be turning up any time soon.

Gaz: [Taunting] And yes, Kelly's coming!

Chris: What?

Gaz: Nothing...

Josh: [Taunting] Yeah, why would you be interested in Kelly coming?

Chris: Whatever guys, I don't know what you're talking about.

Josh: Then why've you gone all red!?

Chris: **Give me a break**, fellas.

Gaz: [Mocking] Are you going to start talking to her about the bluetooth functions on your new car again?

Chris: Just hurry up and make those darn mojitos!



PISTA 69A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que de fondo se oye música tecno.

PISTA 69B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>blender</i>	batidora
<i>the beat (in a song)</i>	la batería
<i>sweet</i>	coloquial para decir excelente
<i>keep your hair on!</i>	¡venga, tranquilo!
<i>an old fogey</i>	un antiguo
<i>a get-together</i>	pequeña fiesta
<i>to rustle up</i>	preparar comida/ bebida
<i>ooh, la-di-dah!</i>	¡qué pijo!
<i>sweltering</i>	bochornoso
<i>to be up for something</i>	estar dispuesto/a a hacer algo
<i>Give me a break!</i>	¡Déjame!

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) Does Chris know where the rum is?

- 2) Where did Josh leave it?

- 3) Why does Gaz want the music turned up?

- 4) Why does Chris want it turned down?

- 5) Why does Josh agree?

- 6) What does Josh ask Chris to prepare?

- 7) Is Gaz up for a mojito?

- 8) What sarcastic suggestion does he make?

- 9) What is Chris anxious to know?

- 10) What happens when Josh and Gaz tease Chris about Kelly?

- 11) What does he tell the others to do?

- 12) What does Gaz mock Chris about?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 261]







ONLINE DATING

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Jen: Where did you say you met this Chris guy again?

Kelly: On this dating site I found, remember?

Jen: Oh yeah, one of those sites where they fix you up with the first one that comes along...

Kelly: Na-ha! [**Snapping** her fingers] It's not like that at all. Actually, I was matched with Chris because they found that we have loads of things in common. Like... he's into cars and I like getting into a nice car. Ha, ha! Seriously though. He keeps going on about the bluetooth functions in his car. Soo cute!

Jen: Right, and that's why you decided to fix a double date for tonight. So how many of us will there be at dinner?

Kelly: He's bringing two of his friends with him. Here, come take a look at their picture. They're on the dating site too!

Jen: Oh...my...God! They're so cute! What are their names? [Reading] Gaz and Josh. Cool! I get to pick one! Quick, I'd better fix my hair then.

Kelly: Hold it, hold it. I thought you were in a relationship with that neighbor of yours.

Jen: Nah. That relationship is **broken beyond repair**.

Kelly: Really? I remember the first time I saw you two together. His eyes were fixed on you all night! What's he doing tonight anyway?

Jen: He's been **running a fever** for the past few days. He's actually on the mend now. But there's no way I'm going back to him. He'd need some serious shaping-up and begin by mending his ways for me to even start thinking about fixing that relationship.

Kelly: Ops, I'm afraid I've got a **run** in my pantyhose. Any idea how to mend it?

Jen: Sorry, Kels, I'm useless at mending clothes. Shall I fix your face instead?

Kelly: Excuse me? My face'd better need no fixing after the advanced night repair synchronized complex I wore all night. **It cost me an arm and a leg** too!

Jen: All right, all right. Keep your hair on, girl. I was only trying to be helpful and make up for not being able to mend your pantyhose, you see?

Kelly: I'm sorry. I guess I'm a bit nervous about tonight. I think this guy, Chris, could be the one, you know? And who knows, one of the other two could be the one for you!

PISTA 70A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que de fondo se oye música 'chunda chunda'...

PISTA 70B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

to snap (US)/to click (UK)

one's fingers chasquear los dedos

to be broken beyond repair estar roto y sin arreglo

to run a fever tener fiebre

a run (US)/a ladder (UK) una carrera en las medias

to cost me an arm and a leg me costó un riñón

to build up one's expectations hacerse ilusiones



- Jen:** Honey, I know you're trying to help me get over the thing with Tom and I appreciate it, I really do. But I'm afraid there's no quick fix for it. So getting together with somebody else on the rebound won't help.
- Kelly:** What's the matter? I thought you were all excited about tonight!
- Jen:** Yeah, well, I am. I just don't want **to build up my expectations** and then be disappointed, you know?
- Kelly:** Oh my God! I think you're as nervous as I am! [Starts screaming] It's so exciting! It's so exciting!
- Jen:** [Starts screaming too] I can't wait! I can't wait!

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) Where did Kelly meet Chris?

- 2) How does Jen describe the site?

- 3) What does Kelly say Chris keeps going on about?

- 4) Does she seem to like that about him?

- 5) How does Jen ask '¿Cuántos seremos en la cena?'?

- 6) What does Jen say she'd better do as soon as she sees the guys' picture on the Internet?

- 7) What's wrong with the relationship between Jen and her neighbor?

- 8) What's he been running lately?

- 9) Is he feeling better now?

- 10) What does Jen offer to fix for Kelly?

- 11) What cost Kelly an arm and a leg?

- 12) What doesn't Jen want to do about tonight?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 261]





THE NEW MANAGER

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

- Felix:** Jennifer! How are you? I heard you're not working at the agency next door any more.
- Jennifer:** No, I couldn't stand it after the new manager started so I left. I'm looking for another job, but it's turning out to be more difficult than I thought.
- Felix:** I had the same problem when I was **on the dole**. I applied for at least 5 jobs a day and I didn't hear anything. In the end, I threw myself into studying to make the most of my free time. Anyway, what happened with the new manager? Didn't you get along with each other?
- Jennifer:** No, not at all. I had a few months off because I was sick and when I went back, I worked extra hard to make up for the time I'd missed, but it was never good enough. Everything I did was thrown back in my face. So I decided enough was enough.
- Felix:** I heard that he's got a really strong vision of what he wants. A lot of the designers there are complaining about him. Stephanie said he never agrees with her on creative issues and that he's always throwing his weight around in the office.
- Jennifer:** That sounds exactly like him. Anyway, enough about that! How's life?
- Felix:** Good, I'm in the middle of launching a new product so everything is a bit **hectic**, but it's exciting.
- Jennifer:** Oh, tell me more! I'm dying to be involved in new projects. I'm **bored stiff** at home!
- Felix:** Well, I shouldn't really say anything. The last time someone from the agency **let the cat out of the bag** they threw him to the lions. Everything is top secret, you know how it is!
- Jennifer:** Yeah, that's the one thing I don't miss, the secrets. [Looks at watch] Oh! I'd better get going soon... I've got a flat viewing in half an hour.
- Felix:** Nice, where is it?
- Jennifer:** It's in the old town, only a stone's throw away from the beach so I really hope it's nice.
- Felix:** It sounds lovely; I'll keep my fingers crossed for the flat... and the job situation too! I'm sure you'll find something soon, especially with all your experience.
- Jennifer:** Yeah, I'm still optimistic. I'm not ready to throw in the towel just yet. Thanks for the chat; it was nice to see you!
- Felix:** You too, take care.



PISTA 71A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando en la calle y se escucha el ruido del tráfico.

PISTA 71B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>to be on the dole</i>	estar en el paro
<i>hectic</i>	frenético/a
<i>to be bored stiff</i>	estar tan aburrido como una ostra
<i>to let the cat out of the bag</i>	irse de la lengua

TEMA: THE NEW MANAGER

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) Is Jennifer still working at the advertising agency?

- 2) Why did she leave?

- 3) What did Jennifer say about looking for a new job?

- 4) How many jobs did Felix say he applied for every day when he was on the dole?

- 5) What did he do to make the most of his free time?

- 6) What did Stephanie say about Jennifer's old manager?

- 7) What is Felix currently in the middle of?

- 8) What did Felix say happened the last time someone let the cat out of the bag?

- 9) Where is Jennifer's flat viewing, in relation to the beach?

- 10) Why is Felix sure that Jennifer will find a new job soon?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 261]



Handwriting practice area with 12 horizontal lines.





AT THE FESTIVAL

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

- Timmy:** Ugh, I feel pretty groggy. I didn't sleep a wink last night.
- Bobby:** Tell me about it! **I was all wrapped up in** a sleeping bag and a blanket, and I was still **shivering**!
- Timmy:** You know Lucy slept through the whole storm, right?
- Bobby:** You're having a laugh! Is she a heavy sleeper, then?
- Timmy:** Big time. Oops, **speak of the devil**!
- Lucy:** Good morning!
- Bobby:** There's nothing good about it! You really didn't hear any of that storm last night then?
- Lucy:** Nope, I'd sleep through an earthquake! I was dreaming about working in a chocolate factory!
- Timmy:** Ah, so that's why you weren't so eager to wake up earlier.
- Lucy:** Yep, he, he!
- Timmy:** I hit the sack at a reasonable time, but I couldn't **get off** for ages. I'm gonna need to get some shut-eye later on before we see DJ Live 4U.
- Bobby:** Are we definitely seeing him?
- Lucy:** Yay! Come on, he's great live.
- Timmy:** By the way, where's Lee?
- Bobby:** He's already gone back to bed for a snooze, he had a splitting headache.
- Lucy:** He must have **overdone** it last night then, he's usually the last to lie in at a festival!
- Bobby:** **Lightweight**!
- Timmy:** I'm not really interested in any of the **headliners** today, so I'm going to save myself for the night DJs.
- Lucy:** **Sounds like a plan, Stan.**
- Bobby:** I really wanna see Bruce Springsteen at ten.
- Timmy:** No way.
- Lucy:** **Over my dead body.**
- Bobby:** Yep, I thought you'd say that, so I reckon we **split up** and I meet you around half twelve in the Rock Out Tent.
- Timmy:** Sounds good.



PISTA 72A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que se oye a mucha gente hablando en la zona de acampada del festival.

PISTA 72B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>to be (all) wrapped up in something</i>	estar envuelto en algo
<i>to shiver</i>	tiritar
<i>Speak of the devil!</i>	¡Hablando del rey de roma!
<i>to get off (to sleep)</i>	dormirse
<i>to overdo it</i>	beber demasiado
<i>lightweight</i>	alguien que no sabe beber
<i>headliners</i>	estrellas/artistas principales
<i>sounds like a plan</i>	parece una buena idea
<i>Over my dead body!</i>	¡Ni por encima de mi cadáver!
<i>to split up</i>	separarse

TEMA: AT THE FESTIVAL

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



1) How does Timmy say he feels?

2) What bedding did Bobby have?

3) Why does Bobby conclude that Lucy's a heavy sleeper?

4) How do we know that Timmy had a hard time waking Lucy up? What does he say?

5) At what time did Timmy hit the sack?

6) What does Timmy want to do before they see the DJ later?

7) Where's Lee?

8) Why is he snoozing?

9) What's Lucy's theory as to why he's snoozing?

10) What is he usually the last to do?

11) What isn't Timmy very interested in today at the festival?

12) Why does Bobby suggest splitting up?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 261]







SPEAKING YOUR MIND

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

Layla: Mark, tell me something. Would you rather know what people actually think at all times? Or would you rather have them tell you what you want to hear?

Mark: Oh, oh, am I in trouble? What do you mean, Layla?

Layla: I mean, do you like it when people **speak their minds** or prefer them to keep certain things to themselves?

Mark: Is this another psychological test from one of your magazines?
Whatever. I don't know, I guess it makes things easier when people just say what they actually mean without **beating around the bush**.

Layla: Of course, that's the kind of person you are.

Mark: What's that supposed to mean?

Layla: Nothing! I meant it as a compliment. You're the honest, straightforward, reliable type.

Mark: Mmm... do you mean straightforward as in simple or straightforward as in sincere?

Layla: **I might as well** tell you exactly what I mean. I think you're an incredibly simple person, Mark. Don't take it the wrong way though! I mean no offense by it!

Mark: [Sarcastically] Don't worry. By no means was I planning to take your words the wrong way. I am a simple person after all, aren't I?

Layla: [Patronizingly] Come on, Marky! Don't get upset. There's no way on earth I'd ever say or do anything to hurt you. I really meant you no harm...

Mark: All right, all right. But tonight, to make up for it, we're watching the **footie**.

Layla: Excuse me?! Were you just pretending to be offended so that I'd agree to let you take over the remote only to watch that stupid match? You know how I feel about football!

Mark: I wasn't pretending anything. Look, just think of football as a means of making a living for thousands of people across the globe.

Layla: Yeah, a hell of a living, I'd say! Look at all the money they make!

Mark: Look at the sacrifices footballers have to make! Training hard every day, going to bed early, all that travelling... **You should thank your lucky stars** I never considered getting into that line of work, or else you wouldn't see much of me.



PISTA 73A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que se oye la tele de fondo.

PISTA 73B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>to speak one's mind</i>	decir lo que uno/a piensa
<i>whatever</i>	aquí equivale a "anyway"
<i>to beat around the bush</i>	dar rodeos
<i>I might as well</i>	ya que estoy
<i>footie</i>	término informal para referirse al fútbol (RU)
<i>to thank one's lucky stars</i>	estar agradecido/a



Layla: [Sarcastically] Oh, sure, because that would mean you having to travel the world playing for the best teams and not having time for anything else, but your successful career.

Mark: What's that tone supposed to mean? Don't you believe I'd have succeeded if I'd become a football player? That's just plain mean!

Layla: You'll get over it. Besides, you get to watch the match, so stop moaning!

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



1) What's the first thing Layla wants to know?

2) How does Mark react to her question?

3) Where does he think she got the questions from?

4) What kind of person does she say she thinks he is?

5) What does she admit she thinks of him too?

6) Did Mark have any intention of taking her words the wrong way? How can you tell?

7) What is it that Mark wants to watch on TV? How does he call it?

8) How does Mark suggest that Layla think of football?

9) What kind of living does she think footballers make?

10) What does Mark say to Layla she should thank her lucky stars for?

11) Does Layla believe he would've been successful had he become a footballer?

12) What does she tell him to do just before the end of the conversation?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 261]





DANCE CLASS

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Jessica: Oh Wayne! I'm so glad you agreed to come to dance classes with me and I'm sorry I've been **bugging** you about it for so long now. But we're going to have so much fun! It's going to be so romantic! You'll see!

Wayne: Fair enough. I'll give it a go. Oh! Look! It's about to start!

Dance instructor: Welcome to dance class everybody! Right, get into this position with your partner and follow this simple first step: 1, 2, 3 and slide! 1, 2, 3 and slide! Got it? Let's dance!

Jessica: 1, 2, 3 and...! Ow! Wayne! That was my toe, you great **buffoon**! It's 1, 2, 3 and then slide! Understood?

Wayne: Understood! I'm sorry, love. I've got two left feet! Let's try that again.

Jessica: 1, 2, 3, and slide! 1, 2, 3 and slide! You're getting it! Well done! 1, 2, 3 and... ow!

Wayne: Whoops! Sorry, my hip got stuck back on number three there, Jess.

Dance Instructor: OK, **huddle round**! I've seen some splendid dancing so far, guys! And you're ready for the next step! Now what I want you to do is this: 1, 2, 3, slide, a fast spin **on your tip toes**, then jump, lift your partner and then both of you **into the splits**. Everyone understand?

Everyone: Yes!

Jessica: Oh, wow, Wayne! The next move looks so professional. I can't wait to try it!

Dance Instructor: OK, start practicing. Jessica, Wayne, I want you two to keep working on the basic step until you get the gist of it. OK?

Jessica: Really? OK, Wayne you need to concentrate. Keep your arms up straight and your toes pointed. Let's show the dance instructor what we've got.

Wayne: Don't worry, love, I think I've got it sussed now. It's 1, 2, 3 and... whoops!

Jessica: [moody] You are so **clumsy**! That's the third time you've stood on my toe! Wayne, I think you should just go home. You'll never understand these steps.

Wayne: But I thought this was supposed to be a romantic date.

Jessica: Me too, but I hadn't realized how graceless you are. Go on! **Head home!** I think I can partner up with the dance instructor for the rest of the class.

PISTA 74A

RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que se oye de fondo la música de una clase de bailes de salón.

PISTA 74B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>to bug</i>	molestar
<i>buffoon</i>	bufón, payaso/a
<i>to huddle round</i>	acurrucarse
<i>on your tip toes</i>	de puntillas
<i>into the splits</i>	apertura de piernas
<i>clumsy</i>	torpe
<i>Head home!</i>	¡Vete a casa!

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What's Jessica sorry about?

- 2) What does she say it's going to be?

- 3) What's the first step that the dance instructor wants them to practice?

- 4) What does Wayne do by accident?

- 5) What does Wayne say he has when he apologizes?

- 6) When it happens again what is Wayne's excuse?

- 7) How have the group been dancing so far, according to the dance instructor?

- 8) What does he say they're ready for?

- 9) What's the next step?

- 10) What does Jessica say about the next step?

- 11) But what does the dance instructor want them to do?

- 12) What does Jessica say Wayne needs to do?

- 13) When Wayne stands on her toes again, what does Jessica think he should do?

- 14) What does Jessica think she can do for the rest of the class?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en las páginas 261 + 262]



Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Tara: Sam! Thank God I've found you. I've been looking all over the place for you. I need some help with the maths revision. Would you mind helping me?

Samuel: Hey, of course not, but I'm not promising any miracles. You know maths isn't my **forte**; I'm more of a geography guy.

Tara: You must be better than I am, I'm **clueless**. Anyway, it doesn't really matter if I pass or fail. You only need ten credits and I've already got eight, that's enough to **see me through**.

Samuel: So why do you need help? Just do your best and that's it! Oh, and by the way, of course it matters if you pass. That's not exactly the right attitude to have, is it?

Tara: Oh says you! You did the exact same thing last semester in science. Who are you to talk?

Samuel: No, that was completely different. I had a lot on my mind and I only did it because I didn't have time to study. If I'd had time to do it properly, I would've done!

Tara: Well, sorry for being realistic, but I don't see the point of studying a lot for this exam, when it doesn't even matter. Now, are you going to help me or not? I just need help with a few equations so at least it looks like I have a bit of an idea, do you know what I mean?

Samuel: I'll **have a go**. What are the equations?

Tara: OK, one of them is something like "x plus y over z equals"... well, something like that. I have no idea what "x" or "y" or "z" is for a start, do you?

Samuel: Tara... you've got to be kidding me! We spent three months doing that just after the summer, do you not remember anything?

Tara: Samuel, would you mind telling me why it bothers you so much that I'm not good at maths? If you don't want to help me, it's fine, like I've already told you. I can fail and it won't make a difference. I just thought you might be able to help me.

Samuel: I don't mind if you pass or fail either way. I'm just in shock that you don't remember that equation. They **drummed it into us** for three months. Anyway, I'll try to help. I finish basketball practice at 5 p.m., if you don't mind waiting until then, we could sit down and go over a few things?

Tara: You're a star! Shall I bring anything?

Samuel: Well, your notes might help! And your mind. Hmm, well... actually, just your notes!

Tara: Hilarious! See you later!

**PISTA 75A
RUIDO DE FONDO**

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando en un vestíbulo lleno de gente.

PISTA 75B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

forte	punto fuerte
clueless	despistado/a
to see someone through	llevar a cabo
to have a go	intentar
to drum something into someone	machacar algo

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What subject does Tara need help with?

- 2) Is Samuel better at maths or geography?

- 3) How many credits does Tara have?

- 4) In what subject does Tara say Samuel did the same as her?

- 5) According to Samuel, why did he do the same as Tara in science?

- 6) Why doesn't Tara see the point of studying a lot for the exam?

- 7) What does Tara need help with specifically?

- 8) How long does Samuel say they studied the equation?

- 9) Why does Samuel say he is in shock?

- 10) What time does Samuel finish basketball practice at?

- 11) What two things does Samuel say Tara needs to bring?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 262]





76A 76B THE FILM

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

Jack: Hey guys, how's it all going?
Tom: Not bad, man, how was the **physio** the other day?
Jack: Yeah, not bad, although looks like the **ligament**'s a bit torn.
Lucy: Ouch! That's gotta hurt, right?
Jack: Nah, it's fine.
Tom: I don't suppose you'll be running marathons again any time soon!?
Jack: Nope, I'm going to **be all about putting my feet up** and watching the telly for a fair while. Could be worse!
Lucy: Hey, I suppose you lot aren't up for seeing a **dubbed**, black and white film, are you?
Jack: Erm, maybe. Has it got samurais in it?
Tom: Or sexy vampires?
Lucy: He, he, sorry, lads, it's about different people telling the story of a crime from different points of view.
Tom: Uh, sounds great, but I'm actually washing my hair tonight...
Jack: [Sarcastically] Ha, ha, ha. You haven't got enough hair left to wash, mate!
Lucy: Oh, the cat has claws!
Jack: Well, why don't we hit a couple of pubs first and then **play it by ear**?
Lucy: Yeah, that works for me.
Tom: Cool, **I'm not too fussed** about the film, but if you two are up for it I'll **tag along**.
Jack: Plus, given how boring that film sounds, I could do with having a couple before **sitting through it**!
Lucy: Oi!!!
Tom and Jack: He, he, he, he!!



PISTA 76A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que se oye el ruido de la calle de fondo.

PISTA 76B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

physio	fisioterapeuta (abreviatura de "physiotherapist")
ligament	ligamento
to be all about something	ser muy de hacer algo (muy coloquial)
to put one's feet up	descansar
dubbed	doblado
to play it by ear	improvisar, decidir sobre la marcha
I'm not (too) fussed about...	no me importa...
to tag along	ir con otra gente a un sitio
to sit through something	aguantar hasta el final de algo



Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What appointment did Jack have the other day?

- 2) What problem does he have?

- 3) What does Tom suppose Jack won't be doing for a while?

- 4) How does Jack plan to recuperate?

- 5) What sort of film is Lucy up for seeing?

- 6) What's Tom's jokey excuse for not watching the film?

- 7) What's Lucy's bitchy comment about the guys being bitchy?

- 8) What's Jack's plan?

- 9) Does he want to decide now whether they see the film or not? What phrase does he use?

- 10) How excited is Tom about seeing the film?

- 11) But will he tag along if the other two go?

- 12) What does Jack say he'll need a couple of drinks to do?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 262]







GOING TO GET DRINKS

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



TV: Play's getting **scrappy**. The tension in the stadium is incredible...

Ellie: OK. My round. Same again?

James: Er, yeah. Another pint. And can you get me some crisps? Salt and vinegar, please. Oh! **Foul!**

Ellie: Ow! That looked painful! I'll go to the bar in a sec.

James: That's got to be a yellow! Come on, **ref!**

TV: That was dirty play. And the referee agrees. Adams's been given his second yellow card of the match, so that's it for him. There's no use arguing with the ref though. That was a nasty **tackle!** The ref **made the right call**. Adams is out of this cup final match. Listen to the crowd boo! He looks **guttled** as he walks off.

James: Ha! He's got the red card. **Serves him right!**

Ellie: He's such a dirty player! He deserves it!

James: I thought you were going to the bar!

Ellie: After this! I can't miss the penalty! I'll go in a minute.

TV: ...a penalty's been awarded. And Thomas is going to take it. There's a lot of pressure on him to score this penalty. It could carry Arsenal to victory in this cup final. It's a lot of responsibility for young shoulders to carry. And... he scores! The crowd has gone wild!

James: Goal! 2-1!

Ellie: Yes!

James: Excellent! OK. Drinks!

Ellie: Oooh. Do you know who he looks like?

James: [Confused] What? Who?

Ellie: He looks like Ruth's ex. Except not as good looking. The ex, I mean. He wouldn't carry off the shorts as well!

James: [Sarcastically] Thanks for that bit of information. [More interested] Hang on. They're not going out anymore?

Ellie: No! Didn't I tell you?

James: No. But maybe it's a story best told over a drink...

Ellie: [Ignoring him] Well, **it turned out** that he'd been carrying on with someone from work.

James: Seriously?

Ellie: I know!

James: Poor Ruth... But I'm actually getting a bit thirsty, Ellie...

Ellie: Well, no. Not really poor Ruth, because she'd been **two-timing** him with a guy from the gym, who...

James: [Groans] I want a pint!

PISTA 77A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio aumenta porque están hablando en un pub.

PISTA 77B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

scrappy	con errores, sin estilo
foul	falta
ref	árbitro (abreviatura de "referee")
tackle	entrada
to make the right call	acertar (en una decisión)
to be gutted	estar muy decepcionado/a
it serves him right	se lo tiene bien merecido
it turned out	resultó
to two-time	engañar

TEMA: GOING TO GET DRINKS

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



1) What is Ellie about to do before she gets distracted by the football?

2) What does James want?

3) What flavour crisps?

4) What happens in the match to distract Ellie?

5) What two decisions does the referee make?

6) How many yellow cards has Adams been given?

7) Why is there a lot of pressure on Thomas to score the penalty?

8) What's the score in the match?

9) Why isn't Ruth going out with her boyfriend anymore?

10) With whom?

11) Why doesn't Ellie have too much sympathy for Ruth?

12) With whom?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 262]







SPEED DATING

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

Gladys: I don't know how you convinced me to come to this speed dating thing, Ethel. And **in this get-up!** You've put so much talcum powder on my face, I look like an ad for life insurance. I don't know why we're here! **We're a little past our prime**, you might say...

Ethel: Just because we're in our sixties, Gladys, doesn't mean we don't deserve to be happy. We might meet the men of our dreams tonight! And what do you mean "in this get up"?! We both look divine! My girdle is in place and your slip is barely showing! Someone might even say we look like a study in beauty!

Gladys: OK, I guess you're right. We might meet some nice gentlemen. But it's so scary. Studies show that it's more likely for women over forty **to get struck by lightning** than to get married. And, combined, you and I are over a hundred and twenty years old!

Ethel: Speak for yourself, sister! I won't let any scientific **claptrap put a wet towel on** my ambitions to be happily wed. I was studying the personal ads this morning and my profile happens to be highly sought after. Warm-hearted grandma types are all the rage nowadays, didn't you know?

Gladys: [Laughing] Since when are you warm-hearted, Ethel? The last time I saw you be nice to someone it was to the shop girl at Macy's and that was only in the hope of getting free samples of expensive cosmetics.

Ethel: Well, I didn't see you turning them down once I'd gotten her to **fork them over**, did I, now?!

Gladys: I guess you're right, Ethel. It won't be so bad tonight. I do wonder what to talk to all these men about though. From what I understand, "what's your favorite color?" is a little passé.

Ethel: [Annoyed] Ach! Anything, Gladys! Anything! Talk to them about anything! Talk to them about their grandchildren or their hip replacements or their tax returns! Ask them what they studied at school for all I care!

Gladys: But, Ethel! They're old! Really old! Ancient! They studied decades ago! Honestly, I don't think their memory will go back that far!

Ethel: OK, Gladys. You've convinced me. It's a bad idea. Go home, have a glass of warm milk and sleep well. I'll call you tomorrow to see how you spent the night.

Gladys: [Simpering] You... You... You mean you're still going? Without me?! I can't believe you're going without me!

Ethel: You'll have to believe it when you see me walking out the door!



PISTA 78A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que de fondo se oye un bar lleno de gente. ¡No olvides dejar propina a los camareros!

PISTA 78B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

in this get-up!	¡con estas pintas!
we're a little past our prime	se nos ha pasado el arroz
claptrap	otra forma de decir "nonsense" ('disparates')
to put a wet towel on something	chafarle a alguien la fiesta
to fork something over	entregar algo a regañadientes



79A 79B THE BUFFET

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

- Josie:** Shall we talk about this over lunch?
- Sam:** If you want... where do you **wanna** go? There's a new buffet place down the road if you've got an appetite.
- Josie:** You pick. I'm hungry and I'm not too **fussed** to be honest.
- Sam:** OK, let's make our way to the buffet then. [Taking a deep breath] So, are we **gonna** talk about **the elephant in the room**?
- Josie:** Yeah, it's just... Sam, I don't want this conversation to turn into an argument, OK? We need to be adults about this.
- Sam:** [Sarcastically] I'm as adult as can be, Josie! You just need to **restrain yourself** from picking at everything I say and then we might be able to have a decent conversation.
- Josie:** Right, OK, Sam, whatever you say. I can see this is going to be a fun lunch. Is this the buffet place?
- Sam:** Yeah, let's go inside. You can pick and choose whatever you want, as many times as you want.
- Josie:** That's usually the idea of a buffet, Sam. [Giggles]
- Sam:** Well, I'm only telling you because I know that every time you say you're hungry, you end up **over facing yourself** and then just picking at your food.
- Josie:** Hmm, well, it looks nice. [After a short silence] So, erm, I suppose we should just get straight to the point, shouldn't we?
- Sam:** Well, it's pretty obvious what you're going to tell me, Josie. I only agreed to come because I knew you'd think I was immature if I didn't. So why don't you just come out and say it? We're finished, aren't we?
- Josie:** [Clears throat] Yeah, well, you see... let me see how I can choose the right words. I do want to move on, that's true. Hmm, the real reason I asked you to come was because I think you should know the truth. [Another pause] I'm dating your brother, Ian. Sam, I'm so sorry, I...
- Sam:** Don't even bother. Pick up your stuff today so we never have to see each other again.



PISTA 79A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando en la calle con el ruido del tráfico.

PISTA 79B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

wanna/gonna abreviaciones de "want to" y "going to"

not to be fussed dar igual

the elephant in the room un secreto a voces

to restrain one's self (emotionally) contenerse

to over face one's self ser avaricioso cuando te sirves la comida

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y **responde a las preguntas.**



- 1) Where does Sam suggest they go to eat?
- 2) What does Sam want to talk about?
- 3) What doesn't Josie want the conversation to turn into?
- 4) How does Sam think they can have a decent conversation?
- 5) Why does Sam tell Josie that you can pick and choose as much food as you like?
- 6) Why did Sam agree to go to lunch with Josie?
- 7) Which one says they want to move on?
- 8) Why did Josie ask Sam to go for lunch?
- 9) Who is Josie dating?
- 10) What does Sam want Josie to do and why?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 262]

[illegible]



THE GIFT

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Ron: Happy birthday, darling! Open your present and then I'll cook you some breakfast.

Margaret: Let me get dressed first and then I'll open them. How exciting!

Ron: You don't need to get dressed yet, just stay in your dressing gown. Maggy, it's your birthday!

Margaret: OK, OK, thank you, baby, I can't wait! Where are they?

Ron: It's under the bed, just let me get it for you.

Margaret: Ahh, OK. You just bought me one? Erm, OK, well I suppose I shall open it, eh? [Opens present] Oh wow! Ron, that's beautiful, it's the one I've been looking for! How did you know? How did you find it? Oh my! I have to wear it tonight, but I have nothing to wear with it!

Ron: Relax! We have two days before the party... that's plenty of time to find you some nice clothes to wear. [Short pause] Maggie, you're not upset that there's only one present here, are you?

Margaret: No, it's fine baby. It's just, you know, I bought like five presents for you on your birthday so you had plenty of things to wear that day and you could get dressed up and look nice and everything.

Ron: Maggie, we're going shopping and I'm going to make sure you have anything you want so you can have a choice of what to wear tonight. Don't make me feel bad, please.

Margaret: No, Ron, don't take it the wrong way! I absolutely love the present, I'm **thrilled**, honestly! I'm sorry if I made you feel bad. Now, where's that breakfast you promised me? I'm going to get dressed and then we can go and wear your credit out! He, he...

Ron: Ha, ha! **Attagirl!** Go and get yourself dolled up and I'll make your favourite; pancakes! Oh but you can't put anything too tight on, I have something planned for later today!

Margaret: What? Are you kidding me? What is it? You have to tell me! What shall I wear? Are jeans OK? Flat shoes, high heels? Ahh, well I can't wear my high heels because the heel's wearing down... oh, that reminds me! I totally have to buy at least three new pairs of high heels today! Oh my God, I'm **freaking out**, where are we going?

Ron: Ha, ha, calm down baby... just wear whatever you like and all will be revealed. Now, get dressed... we need to leave soon!

PISTA 80A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que se oye la radio de fondo.

PISTA 80B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>to be thrilled</i>	estar encantado/a, estar emocionado/a
<i>attagirl</i>	abreviación de " <i>that's a good girl</i> " ('bien hecho, chica')
<i>to freak out</i>	alucinar en colores

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y **responde a las preguntas.**



- 1) Whose birthday is it?
- 2) What does Margaret want to do before she opens her presents?
- 3) What item of clothing does Ron suggest she should stay in?
- 4) Where had Ron put the present?
- 5) How many days is it until the party?
- 6) How many presents does Margaret say she bought for Ron's birthday?
- 7) Does Margaret say she likes her present?
- 8) What's Margaret's favourite breakfast?
- 9) Why can't Margaret wear her high heel shoes?
- 10) How many pairs of high heel shoes does Margaret say she wants to buy?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 262]

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

81A 81B ANDREA

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Mark: So are you gonna bring up absenteeism when you talk to Andrea?

Sophie: Probably not, André raised it with her in a meeting yesterday, so she's aware of the problem.

Mark: Right, but it might be worthwhile reminding her, the more people that bring it up the better.

Sophie: I suppose... yeah. OK, I'll **jot it down** now before I forget. Were there any other issues I needed to raise?

Mark: [Joking] Getting a raise? He, he, uh... let me think... oh, did you **touch base with** Johnson about their reporting system?

Sophie: No, I haven't been able **to get hold of him**, I'm still not sure exactly what the problem is.

Mark: OK, well I wouldn't mention anything for now just in case, they might be **making a mountain out of a molehill** over there.

Sophie: Wouldn't be the first time!

Mark: He, he. So how's that **newbie** of yours getting on?

Sophie: Yeah... OK, I suppose, she seems to lack a sense of urgency though.

Mark: You need to **put the fear of God into her**.

Sophie: Yeah, I know, but I'm gonna **hold off** for another week or so... give her a bit more of a chance to settle in some more.

Mark: All right, let's see if **bucks her ideas up** a bit more.

Sophie: Uhhuh. So I think that's it, right?

Mark: I think so, just make sure that you're finished with Andrea by five, we need to **shoot over** to HJX at five thirty to have a sit-down with the new head of sales.

Sophie: Ugh, from what I gather, he's a bit **sleazy**.

Mark: Apparently so! He's gonna fit in just fine over there!

Sophie: Ha, too right. Well, I'm gonna get going, I'll see you round here about five then, OK?

Mark: Sounds good, enjoy.

Sophie: Cheers.

PISTA 81A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que se oye el ruido de la calle.

PISTA 81B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>to jot something down</i>	apuntar algo (en papel o donde sea)
<i>to touch base with someone</i>	contactar con alguien
<i>to get hold of someone</i>	conseguir hablar con alguien
<i>to make a mountain out of a molehill</i>	hacer una montaña de un grano de arena
<i>newbie</i>	novato/a
<i>to put the fear of God into someone</i>	echar una bronca a un subordinado/una subordinada para que se tome las cosas más en serio
<i>to hold off</i>	esperar, demorar algo que ibas a hacer
<i>to buck one's ideas up</i>	tomarse las cosas más en serio
<i>to shoot over</i>	ir a algún sitio con prisa
<i>sleazy</i>	asqueroso/a

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What's the first question that Mark asks Sophie?

- 2) Why does Sophie think she probably won't?

- 3) Why does Mark suggest that she bring it up?

- 4) Once convinced that she should bring it up anyway, what does Sophie say she'll do to help remember to do it?

- 5) Why is Sophie trying to get a hold of Johnson?

- 6) Which member of the team does Mark enquire about?

- 7) How does Sophie say the newbie's doing?

- 8) What's Mark's suggestion about this?

- 9) Why is Sophie thinking of holding off on doing that?

- 10) Why does Mark want Sophie to finish by five?

- 11) What has Sophie heard about the new head of sales?

- 12) What joke does Mark crack about this?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en las páginas 262 + 263]





82A 82B BREAKING UP

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Phil: Baby, I just don't feel fulfilled with you anymore. Back when we were studying together in Philly, I felt like you filled this empty space right here, in my heart. But now, with you living in the Philippines... **I just can't deal.**

Felicity: Phil! I know that with me in the Philippines and you in Philadelphia it's hard, but we knew we were on separate paths from the start, what with you studying philosophy and me studying philanthropy! But let's **slug it out!**

Phil: Look, sweetie, I don't want **to sugar-coat** this, but... well, I'll **tell it to you straight**: I've found someone else.

Felicity: Phil!! I can't believe this, and you asked me to come all the way back to Philadelphia from the Philippines for you to tell me this?! Do you take me for a fool?

Phil: No, honey, **not in the slightest!** But I'd feel like a coward if I didn't **break it to you** face to face. Sorry, but I'm tired of all the empty promises and of this empty feeling... in my heart.

Felicity: You **good for nothing**; I can't believe you could be so full of yourself, you know I have photo albums full of all our memories! This is like a terrible film!

Phil: Baby, you'll get over me. You live life to the fullest and that's why I loved you.

Felicity: Stop, Phil! You're full of it! Tell it like it is, you got your fill of me and now you feel like you can throw me to the curb! You're like a minced meat pasty, soft Phillo dough on out the outside, and full of ground up, disgusting meat for filling.

Phil: Felicity!

Felicity: Just tell me her name, Phil! That's all I ask! So that I can curse her every night, before I go to bed.

Phil: Fine, it's Filippa. She works at an affiliate company here in Philadelphia.

Felicity: Filippa? Filippa Filmore? She studied with us! She majored in philology! Oh **my word!**

Phil: I'm sorry, baby.

Felicity: Sorry?! I feel sorry for you! Filippa Filmore is married with kids! I saw her yesterday!

PISTA 82A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando mientras están en una fiesta.

PISTA 82B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

I just can't deal Es que no lo aguanto
to slug it out luchar por ello
to sugar-coat suavizar un mensaje
tell it to you straight decírtelo tal y como es
not in the slightest! ¡ni en lo más mínimo!
break it to you darte la noticia
good for nothing inútil
my word! ¡ay, dios!

TEMA: BREAKING UP

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) How does Phil feel about his relationship with Felicity?

- 2) Where do Phil and Felicity live now?

- 3) Does Phil want to stay together with Felicity or does he want to break up with her?

- 4) Why does Phil want to break up with Felicity?

- 5) Why does Phil have Felicity come all the way over to Philadelphia to break the news to her?

- 6) What does Felicity compare the news of their breakup with?

- 7) Does Phil think that Felicity will get over him?

- 8) What does Felicity compare Phil to?

- 9) What does Felicity want to know about Phil's new girlfriend?

- 10) Why does Felicity want to know Phil's new girlfriend's name?

- 11) What is Phil's new girlfriend's name?

- 12) How does Felicity know Filippa?

- 13) What does Felicity tell Phil about Filippa?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 263]







THE ROW OF EVERGREENS

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Neighbour 1: [Doorbell rings] Hello, can I help you?

Neighbour 2: Yes. I'm very sorry to bother you, but I was wondering whether or not I could talk to you about the row of evergreens that you planted at the end of your garden last year.

Neighbour 1: Right. If you'd like to know how to grow them, it's very easy.

Neighbour 2: No, no. Well, the thing is they've grown so tall and so quickly, and well... they've become a bit of an **eyesore**. They block the sun and by the time it's mid-afternoon, a gigantic shade covers my entire garden. It's even affecting the temperature of my pool.

Neighbour 1: Seriously? It's affecting the temperature of your pool? Oh dear. It's a hard life, isn't it! Listen, some of us are actually dealing with real issues, so if you don't mind...

Neighbour 2: Excuse me! I came here with good intentions. I wanted to discuss this issue with you **amicably**, but you're not making that an easy task for me **by any means**!

Neighbour 1: Well, I didn't plant those trees before getting permission from city hall, so perhaps you should take the issue up with them. Now if you don't mind...

Neighbour 2: Listen! Those trees are an ugly dark green and they're depressing to look at! And another thing, there's no point sunbathing in my garden anymore because those nasty trees are blocking all the sunrays!

Neighbour 1: Dear me! Problems of the first world! The rays from the sun don't get into your garden. Boo hoo! Honestly! Grow up!

Neighbour 2: **Well I never!** Seriously, in all my life I have never come across anybody as obnoxious and...

Neighbour 1: Listen, the reason I planted those trees was to keep nosy people out. There's no privacy in this neighbourhood.

Neighbour 2: Look, maybe **we got off on the wrong foot**. Please understand that I paid a lot of money for my property and the one thing that I loved the most about it was the wonderful view that I got from my balcony and the porch. Now all I see is that row of evergreens.

PISTA 83A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando durante un vendaval.

PISTA 83B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

eyesore	engendro
amicably	cordialmente, amigablemente
by any means	de ninguna manera, de cualquier manera (dependiendo de si la frase es negativa o no).
Well I never!	¿Quién lo hubiese imaginado?
to get off on the wrong foot	comenzar con mal pie
oh-so	tan (forma exagerada de decir "so")
that's that	tema zanjado

TEMA: THE ROW OF EVERGREENS



Neighbour 1: Yes, but that **oh-so** wonderful view of which you speak included my estate.

Neighbour 2: Excuse me! I have no interest whatsoever in your private life or in your estate! I just want you to consider your neighbours before letting some thick ugly trees grow in a long line at the end of your garden! They're directly affecting me!

Neighbour 1: Listen, the trees are staying and **that's that**.

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What does neighbour 2 want to talk to neighbour 1 about?

- 2) What's the problem?

- 3) How do the trees affect her garden?

- 4) What are some of us dealing with according to neighbour 1?

- 5) How did neighbour 2 want to discuss these issues with neighbour 1?

- 6) But what's the problem?

- 7) What do the trees look like?

- 8) Why is there no point in sunbathing in neighbour 1's garden anymore?

- 9) What was the reason that neighbour 1 gave for planting those trees?

- 10) What was the one thing that neighbour 2 loved the most about her house?

- 11) Does neighbour 2 have any interest in neighbour 1's estate?

- 12) What's the only thing she wants him to consider?

- 13) What's neighbour 1's final decision?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 263]





UNCLE WILLIE

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



- Tinisha:** Hi my sweetie pie, how you doin'? You sure have put on some weight since the last time I saw you. Look at those cheeks!
- Tyrone:** But auntie Tinisha, my mom says I'm gorgeous and it's just **puppy fat**. She says I'll grow out of it!
- Tinisha:** Oh, but you are gorgeous, Tyrone! Your father passed his looks on to you, he sure did. Oh, your father was one hell of a handsome man, I tell you. All the women **had a crush** on him but your mother got there first! [Laughing]
- Tyrone:** Auntie Tinisha, my mom says that you and she would go out together every weekend and you would always make sure to pass by my daddy's house to see if he was home, is that true?
- Tinisha:** Woohoo, Tyrone, your mother sure was crazy about your father. We did use to pass by on our way to the cinema... and then on the way back!
- Tyrone:** Auntie Tinisha, how did you meet uncle Willie?
- Tinisha:** Ohh, well, your uncle Willie was always making passes at me, but I never paid him any attention, until one day... Your mom and I had gone down to ol' Sam's store on the corner of the block. Your uncle Willie was there outside, passing a cigarette around his group of friends. I hated smoke, Tyrone, so I made it obvious that I wanted to pass them without getting my **weave** full of that awful smell, hmm hmmm...
- Tyrone:** But uncle Willie doesn't smoke, auntie Tinisha! Uncle Willie... [Interrupted by Tinisha]
- Tinisha:** Don't you get carried away now, sweetie, I'm not done telling you what happened! Anyway, I coughed and waved my hands and rolled my eyes and I made it clear that I didn't like a man who smoked, and you know what he did right there, Tyrone? He put his cigarette out on the floor, came over to my side and told me he'd quit smoking if I agreed to go on just one date with him!
- Tyrone:** What did you say, aunt Tinisha?
- Tinisha:** Well, I couldn't let the opportunity pass me by, could I? A date never hurt anyone and if he was prepared to give that habit up for me, I was prepared to give him a chance! I agreed to go on a date with him.
- Tyrone:** Mom says that you were real bossy with uncle Willie when you were younger, is that why you made him give up smoking?

PISTA 84A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando en la cocina y se oye el ruido de la radio.

PISTA 84B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

puppy fat	gordura infantil
to have a crush on someone	estar colado/a por alguien
weave	postizo
to be a tattletale/telltale	ser un soplón/una soplona



Tinisha: Umm hmm, is that so, Tyrone? Well, you know, boy, my sister has always been too quick to pass judgment, but let's pretend you didn't tell me that now, Ok? Mmm hmm, OK, now you run on inside the house and tell your cousin Jacqueline that you're here.

Tyrone: Auntie Tinisha, can I stay outside with you? I don't want to play with Jacqueline, she's always telling me what to do.

Tinisha: Don't be a **tattletale**, sweetie! Now go upstairs and let your auntie Tinisha finish cleaning the porch.

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What does Tinisha say about Tyrone when she sees him?

- 2) What relation is Tinisha to Tyrone?

- 3) What does Tyrone's mum say about his weight?

- 4) What does Tyrone's mum say that she and Tinisha used to do?

- 5) Where did Tinisha see Willie smoking with his friends?

- 6) What did Willie offer to do to go on a date with Tinisha?

- 7) According to Tyrone's mum, how was Tinisha with Willie when she was younger?

- 8) What's Tyrone's cousin called?

- 9) What does Tyrone want to do instead of playing with Jacqueline?

- 10) What does Tinisha want to finish doing?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 263]







VALENTINE'S DAY

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



- Phil:** Well, I'm not bothered about Valentine's Day anyway... it's just another commercialized celebration designed to make you feel guilty enough to spend money on someone.
- Jennifer:** Oh, don't be so miserable, Phil! Cheer up, will you! It's just one day a year, what harm is it going to do?
- Phil:** I'm not saying it will do harm. I just don't need to spend money on Valentine's Day to prove that I love someone. Can't you see it's just a big **farce**? Where are we going anyway? I thought we were going to your mum and dad's?
- Jennifer:** We are, I just need to quickly go to the shops for something first, do you mind?
- Phil:** No, it's fine. Look! Everywhere you look there are posters and balloons and teddy bears, love hearts and chocolates! It's so in your face, isn't it?
- Jennifer:** **Give it a rest**, Phil... you sound like your dad! Honestly!
- Phil:** It's not that I hate it or anything... I despise it! Ha, ha, I'm only joking. Anyway, you know I love you, don't you? I don't need expensive gifts, fancy meals and red roses to show you that.
- Jennifer:** Hmm, whatever Phil, you've made your point, now stop walking so slow... we've got somewhere to be!
- Phil:** Well, your mum and dad are hardly going to go anywhere, are they, love? I mean, come on!
- Jennifer:** Look, Phil, would you **snap out of it**, please? I can't stand it when all you do is moan. My mum and dad aren't going anywhere, you're right, and yes, Valentine's Day is commercial, but it's just once a year. You don't have to spend a fortune to show someone you love them. Now... I may as well tell you that we're not going to my mum and dad's and I also don't need to go to the shop.
- Phil:** What do you mean?
- Jennifer:** Well, seeing as though you're at a conference on 14th, I thought I would surprise you with a meal. Obviously, I'm sorry I bothered now!
- Phil:** Oh love! I had no idea, I'm so sorry! Where are we going?
- Jennifer:** Oh, what's the point, you've made it crystal clear that you hate it and you've took all the fun and romance out of it! Let's just go home...

PISTA 85A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando por la calle.

PISTA 85B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>farce</i>	farsa
<i>give it a rest</i>	basta ya
<i>to snap out of it</i>	levantar el ánimo
<i>to treat someone</i>	invitar a alguien



Phil: No! Don't be silly, lets go for the meal. Jennifer, I was going to **treat you** on Valentine's Day, you know? I know I act like I hate it, but I wasn't going to let it pass by without surprising you, I promise!

Jennifer: Hmm...

Phil: I swear! I was! Listen, I'd absolutely love to have a meal with you now... come on, let's go!

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



1) Why does Phil say he's not bothered about Valentine's Day?

2) Why does Phil say he doesn't need to spend money?

3) Where does Phil think they are going?

4) Where does Jennifer say they are going first?

5) Who does Jennifer say Phil sounds like?

6) Why does Jennifer say you don't have to spend a fortune?

7) Where does Jennifer say Phil will be on 14th?

8) What was Jennifer's surprise for Phil?

9) Why does Jennifer suggest they go home?

10) Does Phil say he was going to treat Jennifer?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 263]







THE ENCOUNTER

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

- Janice:** Shannon! Yoo hoo! Over here! Oh, it's just so wonderful to see you! I'm so glad we can see more of each other these days!
- Shannon:** I couldn't agree more, Janice! [Both girls kiss each other on each cheek]
- Janice:** And just look at you! I love those tights you've got on. Now you can barely even see all those **varicose veins** that you've been trying so hard to hide!
- Shannon:** They are good, aren't they? And if you buy three pairs, you save \$20. Maybe you should consider buying yourself some. They'd really come in handy. I mean, you could finally hide those **blotches** on your legs from that fake tan incident.
- Janice:** That's so true! You're always so full of good ideas! Oh, by the way, that's a great concealer you're using. It hides those **acne scars** of yours so well! You must tell me where you got it from!
- Shannon:** Oh, thank you so much for noticing! Well, I had to spend rather a lot on it. I got it from a specialist shop **on 5th**. In fact I was thinking of you when I bought it. I thought you could use the same concealer to hide those wrinkles you're always complaining about.
- Janice:** That's such a great idea! And by the way, you must be so thrilled that you've finally found a **concealer** that actually hides all those acne scars, after so long searching for one! You must be so happy! I mean you can hardly see them now! That was money well spent!
- Shannon:** And I think it's just so great that you'll be able to walk along the street now without feeling self-conscious about your legs! I'm sure that you'll walk with far more attitude and confidence!
- Janice:** And I'm just so happy that you can look at yourself in the mirror and not be tortured by those acne scars anymore! Perhaps you should consider becoming a make-up artist! You'd do such a great job!
- Shannon:** Do you think? Well, perhaps I'll consider it as a hobby! You'll have to be my **test subject**!
- Janice:** Well, **that goes without saying**! Anyway, you know, Shannon, something's **playing on my mind**. Next month I'll be forty. Tell me. Is it fun being in your forties? Or am I doomed to spend it being mature?



PISTA 86A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando por la calle.

PISTA 86B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

varicose veins	varices
blotches	manchas (causadas en este caso por un bronceador mal aplicado)
on 5th	una forma más corta de decir "on 5th avenue" .
concealer	corrector cosmético
acne scars	marcas de acné
test subject	sujeto de prueba
that goes without saying	no hace falta ni decirlo
playing on my mind	preocupándome

TEMA: THE ENCOUNTER



Shannon: I was going to ask you exactly the same question! I'm not forty until next year. Are you telling me that you're still 39?!

Janice: Yes, but not for much longer! You know, we simply must meet up more often! Like I said before, I'm so glad that we're spending more time together!

Shannon: Oh I know! I was just thinking the same thing the other day!

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



1) Why is Janice so glad?

2) What can you barely see now thanks to Shannon's tights?

3) How much can you save if you buy three pairs?

4) What could Janice do if she bought some of the same tights?

5) What's Shannon always full of, according to Janice?

6) Why is the concealer that Shannon's using so good?

7) Where did Shannon get the concealer?

8) Who was Shannon thinking of when she bought it?

9) What has Shannon finally found?

10) Why is Janice so happy?

11) What's playing on Janice's mind?

12) When is Shannon 40?

13) What must they do more often?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en las páginas 263 + 264]





I'M TOO SHY

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

Sally: Hugh! Look at that guy. He's just my type. He has great hair, I love his 5 o'clock shadow and his skin tone, and he's just the right height...

Hugh: Why don't you introduce yourself?

Sally: No! I'm too shy!

Hugh: Too shy? But life is too short to be shy about these things! Nobody has ever lain on their **deathbed** and thought to themselves "I wish I'd been shy in my life". Just walk up to him and **spark up a conversation**!

Sally: But I wouldn't know what to say!

Hugh: But flirting is **a walk in the park** as long as you have a couple of **tricks up your sleeve**. For example; he's **tinkering with** his mobile at the moment, but there's no coverage in this bar. You could start by making a joke out of that. It works much better than the ever so dull "Hi, how are you?" line.

Sally: Maybe I need some **Dutch courage**.

Hugh: Well, he's near the bar, so let's walk over there together, and when you guys start talking, I'll leave you alone.

Sally: [At the bar] I'm too scared! I'm not going to do it.

Hugh: But why?! You know what, you only live once! Just **bite the bullet**! What's the worst that can happen? He shows no interest! Big deal! At least you'll have tried! [Guy then cuts into the conversation]

Guy: Couldn't agree with you more, man! You only live once! Carpe diem!

Hugh: Thank you!!! Hey, you speak English really well!

Guy: Well, I'm from Oregon, so...

Hugh: Oh! Well that explains it then.

Guy: But my father's Portuguese, so maybe you thought I was from here.

Hugh: Ah cool! Anyway, I'm Hugh and this is my friend Sally.

Guy: Hi there, Sally! Judging from your accent, I'm guessing you're from the east coast, right?

Sally: You mean you could hear us talking? Yikes! Well, yeah, I'm from New Haven, Connecticut; and what's your name?

Guy: My name's Duncan. Sooo, I'm just about to order myself a drink. Can I get you something too?



PISTA 87A RUIDO DE FONDO

la dificultad del audio es que se oye la música del bar y la gente hablando.

PISTA 87B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

deathbed	.....	lecho de muerte
to spark up a conversation	.....	entablar una conversación
a walk in the park	.....	pan comido
tricks up your sleeve	.....	trucos debajo de la manga
to tinker with	.....	juguetear con
Dutch courage	.....	coraje falso
		producido por el consumo de alcohol
to bite the bullet	.....	apretar los dientes

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What features does Sally like about the guy she's just spotted?

- 2) Why won't she introduce herself?

- 3) What's Hugh's opinion regarding shyness?

- 4) What does he then tell her to do?

- 5) What's Hugh's opinion regarding flirting?

- 6) What is the guy doing at the moment?

- 7) What does Sally think she needs in order to talk to the guy?

- 8) What does Hugh tell Sally to do when she says she's too scared to talk to him?

- 9) What does the guy then do?

- 10) Why does the guy speak English so well?

- 11) What nationality is the guy's father?

- 12) Where does the guy guess Sally's from judging from her accent?

- 13) What does Sally then realize?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 264]







THE ACCOUNT

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



- John:** Hi, who can I talk to about my current account here?
- Bank clerk:** Sir, have you called the customer service line? They usually deal with all queries no matter what they relate to.
- John:** Do you honestly think I would have dragged myself in here and queued for half an hour if I were able to get someone in that damn place to pick up? I've called them countless times and all I get is an automated voice telling me to hold the line and that an agent will be right with me... but ten minutes later I'm still waiting and **paying through the nose** for a call that never comes to anything.
- Bank clerk:** I can see you're upset, sir, but if you could perhaps **fill me in** on the nature of the query, I may be able to help you out.
- John:** Well, over the past 12 months I've noticed a debit on my account that makes **no sense whatsoever**. It seems to come out on the 30th of each month and appears on my statement as just a series of numbers, but there's no name given. So basically **I'm shelling out** €30.99 per month for the past year to something or someone that I don't recognise and I want **to get to the bottom of it**.
- Bank clerk:** Well, could I have your bank account number and some form of identification please and I'll look into right now for you, sir?
- John:** My account number is 2568687414465. I don't have any ID on me at the moment. Can't you just look it up for me?
- Bank clerk:** I'm afraid not, sir... bank policy. We can't **see to** any customers without some form of identification. Would you have a travel pass or any other sort of ID on you?
- John:** [Shouting] You've got to be joking! Next thing you'll be asking me to call the customer service line again!
- Bank clerk:** Well, actually, sir, yes. May I suggest you use our courtesy phone behind the ATM? A customer service agent will be able to verify your identification from your file, but I don't have access to that from the mainframe.

PISTA 88A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que de fondo se oye el ruido de un banco que está lleno de gente, que no para de hablar mientras hace cola para ser atendida.

PISTA 88B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>pay through the nose</i>	pagar demasiado/ una fortuna por algo
<i>to fill someone in</i>	poner a alguien al día
<i>no sense whatsoever</i>	ningún sentido en absoluto (para enfaticar)
<i>to shell out</i>	pagar (informal)
<i>to get to the bottom of something</i>	llegar al fondo de algo
<i>to see to someone</i>	atender a alguien
<i>carry-on</i>	comportamiento (informal)

TEMA: THE ACCOUNT



John: [Raging] Are you for real? This place is a joke. No wonder the country is in the state it's in with the likes of you running our banks. I'll have you know I'm moving my account and I'll be sending a very stern letter to the manager of this godforsaken place! It's just ridiculous **carry-on**.

Bank clerk: I'm sorry you feel that way, sir, but that's our policy and I have to stick to it. If you intend on closing your account, please make sure you include a photocopy of your passport in your correspondence.

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What type of account is John referring to?

- 2) What kinds of queries does the customer service line deal with?

- 3) How many times has John had to call the service line?

- 4) Why have his previous calls to the customer service line been unsuccessful?

- 5) What date of the month is John's account debited?

- 6) How much is debited from the account?

- 7) What is John's account number?

- 8) What does the bank clerk suggest Paul do when he can't produce his ID?

- 9) Where is the courtesy phone located?

- 10) According to John, whose fault is it that the country is in a state?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 264]





THE SNIPER

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

Jim Bound: You won't **get the better of me**, I'll have you know. [Grimacing as Silver Sniper holds the gun to his head]

Silver Sniper: And who's going to save you now... your mammy, your mommy, your mummy? Ha, ha, ha! [Sadistic laugh]

Jim Bound: Do you honestly think you'll **get away with** this, Sniper?! They'll be sending 11811 (eleven eight eleven) and 11812 (eleven eight twelve) out to get me. Don't go any further. You know the repercussions will be serious! You'll never get away with it... you'll never get away with it!!!

Silver Sniper: Shut your mouth and stop **whinging**. You have been the bane of my life... well since forever. Been nice knowing you... not! [He pulls the trigger back]

Jim Bound: Wait! Don't do it! What about your family? Do you want them to be left without a father? The kids will grow up without their dad and you'll never get a chance to bring Philomena to her first **prom** or **talk to Dexter about the birds and the bees**.

Silver Sniper: **Don't you dare** bring my kids into this. Philomena and Dexter have nothing to do with it.

Jim Bound: But they have everything to do with it. You are their future and they are yours. Do you really want to mess that up? Do you really want to see their little faces through that pane of protective glass when they visit once a month?

Silver Sniper: Of course I don't, but I have no choice. It's so hard to make an honest living these days. This recession is killing me. I just want **to bring home the bacon**, but you keep stopping me from actually doing that, so I have no choice but to kill you.

Jim Bound: You always have a choice, Dominic, I mean, Sniper!

Silver Sniper: You know I don't go by that name when I'm working, so don't use it!

Jim Bound: For god's sake, Dom, you're my brother. You need to stop this stupid **charade**.

Silver Sniper: And you need to stop telling me what to do...



PISTA 89A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que se oye un helicóptero volando justo por encima de los personajes.

PISTA 89B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>to get the better of someone</i>	sobrepasar a alguien, quedar por encima de alguien
<i>to get away with</i>	salirse con la suya
<i>to whinge</i>	quejarse, gruñir
<i>prom</i>	baile de fin de curso (en EE. UU.)
<i>to talk about the birds and the bees</i>	hablar de las flores y las abejas
<i>don't you dare</i>	ni se te ocurra
<i>to bring home the bacon</i>	ganarse el pan
<i>charade</i>	charada

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y **responde a las preguntas.**



- 1) The Sniper refers to “mother” in three different ways. Did you catch them?
- 2) Jim Bound refers to two other agents. What are their names?
- 3) What reason does Jim Bound give the Sniper not to shoot?
- 4) What are the children’s names?
- 5) If the Sniper ends up going to jail, what event will he miss in his daughter’s life?
- 6) If the Sniper goes to jail, what object will be between him and his children when they visit?
- 7) What is the Sniper finding very difficult to do these days?
- 8) What does he want to do for his family?
- 9) What is the Sniper’s real name?
- 10) What is the relationship between the characters?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 264]

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is a small red circular mark at the top left corner, possibly indicating a hole punch or a sticker. The paper appears to be part of a notebook or binder.

90A 90B THE CHEF

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



- Felicity:** Come on! I'm dying to taste some of your food! I want to know what you've learnt in your cooking classes.
- Mike:** You'll have to wait a few more weeks, I'm still learning!
- Felicity:** Don't be a **wimp**! You must be able to cook something by now. How long have you been going to classes, like three weeks?
- Mike:** Yeah, but I'm still **getting to grips with** the preparation and timing. There's so much to learn, I had no idea! The teacher says that I shouldn't put pressure on myself to impress people, so I'm going to wait a few weeks before I make dinner for anyone.
- Felicity:** What a disappointment! I thought you were going to cook for me tonight. I've been looking forward to cheese on toast all day!
- Mike:** Very funny! I've already learnt how to make a lasagne **from scratch**! I can teach you if you want. I bet you don't have a clue.
- Felicity:** I learnt how to make lasagne when I was a teenager, it's not exactly rocket science. I thought they would be teaching you how to make extravagant desserts and exotic dishes, not basic things like lasagne!
- Mike:** It's not basic, at least the one we learnt how to make anyway.
- Felicity:** Have they taught you how to make crème brûlée yet? I want a homemade one when I come for dinner, please!
- Mike:** We haven't quite got there yet, but they did teach us how to make fresh pasta.
- Felicity:** Very fancy! It's not all Italian food though, is it? It's no good learning how to make foreign dishes if you can't cook local ones. In my opinion, if you can't cook a good **bangers and mash** you can't cook!
- Mike:** Well, my teacher taught me that everybody can cook, but good cooks are very rare.
- Felicity:** OK... very, eh... profound! Anyway, when you feel like you've learnt enough to show off your skills, let me know! [In an Italian accent] Ciao bello!
- Mike:** Ha! OK, bye!

PISTA 90A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando en la cocina con el ruido de la calle.

PISTA 90B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

- a wimp** cobarde
- to get to grips with something** llegar a controlar
- from scratch** desde cero
- bangers and mash** salchichas con puré de patatas (un típico plato inglés)

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y **responde a las preguntas.**



- 1) Why is Felicity dying to taste some of Mike's food?
- 2) How long does Mike say Felicity will have to wait before she can try his food?
- 3) What advice did Mike's teacher give to him about cooking for other people?
- 4) What does Felicity say she has been looking forward to eating?
- 5) What has Mike learnt how to make from scratch?
- 6) When did Felicity learn how to make lasagne?
- 7) What dish does Felicity want for dessert when she goes for dinner at Mike's?
- 8) What fresh food did Mike learn how to make?
- 9) What's Felicity's opinion about making foreign dishes?
- 10) What did Mike's cooking teacher tell him about good cooks?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 264]

[illegible]

THE HOTEL

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

- Claire:** Good morning, Damian! Did you manage to find cover for last night's shift?
- Damian:** No, I couldn't find anyone who was willing to come in with such **short notice** so I stayed late and covered the shift myself.
- Claire:** You're mad, Damian! I would've covered it if I'd known you were so desperate. Why didn't you call me?
- Damian:** Well, I had to deal with a lot of emails and the guests on the 3rd floor were really noisy. I called a few people and then I gave up. I didn't have time to organize anything properly, but thank you anyway.
- Claire:** Poor you! Have you had a rough night? You look a bit tired...
- Damian:** Yes, I'm glad you're here early. I think I need my bed.
- Claire:** OK, well, tell me what needs doing and I'll take care of it all. It's not fair that you have had to handle all that work alone. Honestly, I know you didn't want to, but you should have called me. I wouldn't have left you to deal with all that on your own.
- Damian:** Thanks, well, next time I know! So, about the guests on the 3rd floor: they were being **rowdy** all night and the other guests were complaining. You'll probably have a few more complaints today, just so you're ready. Oh, and there are some reports that we need to fill in before lunch.
- Claire:** Have the noisy guests checked out yet?
- Damian:** Yeah, they've already gone. They started to be quiet at around 7 a.m. anyway, I think they must have got worried, or they just **wore themselves out**!
- Claire:** Got worried? How did you manage to make them stay quiet?
- Damian:** I told them I would call the police and I'd let them deal with them. Anyway, it isn't all bad news... we've got the results from the handling food safely inspection!
- Claire:** And...?
- Damian:** We passed! They've sent a letter saying we were one of the top hotels in the region, but now we have got to do another course: "Dealing with customer complaints".
- Claire:** Another one! But we're already experts! I can't handle another course; they're so boring. When do we have to start it?
- Damian:** Whenever the manager says we have enough time. It will probably be next week.
- Claire:** Fair enough, I suppose we'll just have to get on with it, won't we? Now... you should go home and get some rest and I'll handle these reports after I've had a coffee.



PISTA 91A **RUIDO DE FONDO**

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando con el ruido de la recepción de un hotel.

PISTA 91B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

short notice poca anticipación
rowdy alborotador
to wear oneself out cansarse

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) Did Damian manage to find cover for the previous night's shift?

- 2) Who covered the shift?

- 3) Which floor were the noisy guests on?

- 4) What needs to be done before lunch?

- 5) Are the guests still in the hotel?

- 6) What time did the guests start to be quiet at?

- 7) What did Damian tell the guests he would do if they didn't stop making noise?

- 8) Did they pass the handling food safety inspection?

- 9) What's the next course they have to do?

- 10) When does Damian think the course will start?

- 11) What is Claire going to do after she's had a coffee?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 264]







THE MURDER

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

- Mrs White:** Oh my, oh my, it can't be... He can't be dead. No, no he has just **passed out**... Hasn't he?!!
- Reverend Green:** Now everybody, stay calm! Follow my lead. At times like this we need to turn to God and, and... and... my gosh, I feel quite dizzy...
- Mrs White:** I must be dreaming. I must be. Tell me he's not really dead...
- Colonel Mustard:** My dear Mrs White, I'm afraid he has well and truly **kicked the bucket**. Dead as a **doorknob**. I'd say he's on his way to meet with his maker as we speak...
- Miss Scarlett:** Alright, Colonel, I think we get the picture. You really do have a way with words... Now please everybody just try and **keep your wits about you** and keep calm. It looks like he has suffered trauma to the skull. Been hit in the head with a **blunt object** I'd say... This gives us a lead...
- Colonel Mustard:** Er, it appears that the Reverend has **conked out**. He's out cold.
- Miss Scarlett:** Oh he's fine. He just needs some water. That will **bring him round**. But that can wait... Hmm what other clues are there... Now let me see. It must have happened here in the kitchen...
- Colonel Mustard:** ...and I was so looking forward to dinner... Mrs White, we will still be having dinner, right?
- Mrs White:** Do you only think of your stomach man? We have a murder on our hands! I haven't got time to be starting the cooking.
- Colonel Mustard:** Alright, alright, **don't get your knickers in a twist**. I was just asking because you had your chef's hat on and I don't like to let good food go to waste.
- Miss Scarlett:** Yes, you won't be needing that hat now, Mrs White, and while you're at it, take off that apron and give us a hand shifting the body. He's heavier than he looks...
- Mrs White:** No, no, I'll keep them on if that's alright with everyone.



PISTA 92A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es la música de suspense que se oye de fondo.

PISTA 92B

Si no entiendes con la música de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin música.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>to pass out</i>	desmayarse
<i>kick the bucket</i>	morir (coloquial)
<i>doorknob</i>	pomo
<i>to keep your wits about you</i>	mantener la calma
<i>blunt object</i>	objeto contundente
<i>to conk out</i>	desmayarse (coloquial)
<i>to bring round</i>	reactivar
<i>to get your knickers in a twist</i>	perder los estribos
<i>lead piping</i>	tubería de plomo



Miss Scarlett: No, it's not alright. Am I the only practical one around here? Now please give me that ridiculous hat... [She pulls at the hat]

[Clanking sound]

Miss Scarlett: Mrs White! In the kitchen!! With the **lead piping**!!!

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What does Mrs White initially hope has happened?

- 2) Does the Reverend feel calm or unwell?

- 3) What expressions does the Colonel use to describe the fact the man is dead?

- 4) How does Miss Scarlett react to the Colonel's comments?

- 5) What synonym of "to keep calm" does Miss Scarlett use?

- 6) What is the first lead that Miss Scarlett mentions?

- 7) What happens to the reverend?

- 8) What phrasal verb is used when they discuss how to revive the Reverend?

- 9) What is the Colonel's main concern?

- 10) What expression does the Colonel use when Mrs White reacts angrily?

- 11) Who committed the crime, where and how?

- 12) Where was the murder weapon concealed?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 264]







THE FORTUNE TELLER

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Polly Powers: Welcome, old soul. How can I help you today?

Nancy: Well, I'm here out of desperation really. It's just that I've been **seeing this guy** for four years now. I've come here to see if we're ever going to live happily ever after. I have a suspicion that he's playing around though. He comes home late, he gets texts in the middle of the night and lately he's started smelling of perfume.

Polly Powers: Wow I am getting strong vibes from you sweetie. OK, let's look into my crystal ball. Give me your hands so I can really get a sense of you... [They hold hands] Oh... Your hands are sweaty. Are you nervous?

Nancy: Well yeah. **I've been mulling this over** for so long. I'm driving myself mad thinking about where he is, who he's with and what he's doing and now I just want to know. I am seriously **at the end of my tether**. Please, please, please can you help?

Polly Powers: Old soul, I am not sure that you need a psychic for this. Have you thought about seeing someone, I mean a professional?

Nancy: No, I haven't. Do you think I need to? I mean I thought this was all **run-of-the-mill** relationship stuff. I couldn't possibly confront him without knowing for sure that he's up to something.

Polly Powers: Sweetie, you won't find all of your answers here. I mean, I'm just a psychic. I'm not the answer to all of your problems.

Nancy: Oh I know, I know. I just need some ammunition, you know, something to start with!

Polly Powers: I don't understand, old soul. If you're so sure he's doing something wrong, why do you need me to confirm it?

Nancy: Well, because I want to know if you can see him in my future regardless of whether he's done something or not.

Polly Powers: OK, OK, I get you. Let's have a look in the ball. Right... what I'm seeing is a small dark man with a beard and for some strange reason he seems to have really hairy hands. Is that him?

Nancy: No, Johnny's tall with blond hair and **protruding teeth**. Why, who's that guy you're describing?

PISTA 93A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que de fondo se escuchan campanillas y fantasmas.

PISTA 93B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

to see someone salir con alguien

to mull something over pensar en algo durante un tiempo

to be at the end of one's tether no poder más

run-of-the-mill normal y corriente

protruding teeth dientes prominentes (también decimos "buck teeth")

to figure in one's future ser parte del futuro de alguien

TEMA: THE FORTUNE TELLER



Polly Powers: Well as far as I can see you are going to like this guy. You seem to be kissing and holding hands. I think that sort of answers your question really, doesn't it?

Nancy: What?!! You mean the question as to whether I'm prepared to put up with waxing my boyfriend's hairy hands for the rest of my life!

Polly Powers: No, no, no old soul! I mean it's clear you need to rid yourself of that other deadbeat. He **doesn't figure in your future** anyway!

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) How long has Nancy been going out with her boyfriend?

- 2) Why has she come to see Polly Powers?

- 3) Why does Nancy suspect that her boyfriend's cheating on her?

- 4) What does Polly Powers do so that she can get a better feel for Nancy?

- 5) What makes Polly think Nancy is nervous?

- 6) What does Nancy say when Polly suggests she see someone professionally?

- 7) Why does Nancy need Polly to confirm whether her boyfriend has cheated on her if she is pretty sure he already has?

- 8) Polly sees a man in Nancy's future, what does he look like?

- 9) What does her current boyfriend look like?

- 10) What comment does Nancy make about her potential future boyfriend?

- 11) Does the fortune teller recommend that Nancy do something regarding her current boyfriend?

- 12) Does he figure in her future?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en las páginas 264 + 265]





THE ACCIDENT

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

- Lorna:** How could you not have seen me dad? I was clearly coming up the driveway. Honestly I cannot believe we crashed into each other on our own doorstep!
- Michael:** Do you know what, I never even saw you. The lawnmower is so noisy I have to wear these earphone things to block it out so I didn't hear you or see you. Would you look at the state of the lawnmower? It's **a write-off**!
- Lorna:** And what about the front door of my car Dad!? I'll need a new one and that's going to cost me at least two grand. Dad really and truly, that thing is going **to be the death of you** or someone else in this family. Did you hurt yourself? [Pause] Oh my god! Look at your arm! It's **gushing blood**!
- Michael:** It's grand. Sure it's only a little **scratch**. I'll put a bit of disinfectant on it and it'll be fine.
- Cally:** In the name of God, what happened here? Look at your arm Michael, that cut doesn't look too good.
- Lorna:** Mum, he's **deadly** on that machine. I mean crashing into the side of my car when I'm clearly going at a snail's pace is ridiculous.
- Cally:** I know, I know. I tried to stop him buying it, but he insisted. The lawn is very big and the grass is growing at such a rate, the poor man wouldn't be able to walk by now if he hadn't bought the ride-on lawnmower.
- Michael:** What'll I do! They're saying it's going to rain this evening and I have to get the rest of the lawn done before that, but with this blasted arm hurting me I won't be able to.
- Lorna:** Dad, don't you think the massive **gash** on your arm takes preference over the grass? Really let's be realistic here.



PISTA 94A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que se oye un cortacésped de fondo.

PISTA 94B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>a write-off</i>	un siniestro total
<i>will be the death of you</i>	te matará
<i>to gush</i>	salir a borbotones
<i>a scratch</i>	un rasguño
<i>deadly</i>	peligroso/a, mortal
<i>a gash</i>	un tajo, un corte profundo
<i>to get roped into something</i>	enganchar a alguien para hacer algo (sin avisar)
<i>to have a hand in</i>	quiere decir que has colaborado o que eres cómplice de algo (puede ser positivo y negativo)

TEMA: THE ACCIDENT



- Cally:** Exactly, listen to your daughter, would you? Sure Lorna can finish off the lawn for you with the small lawnmower.
- Lorna:** How am I **getting roped into** this now? You're offering my services without consulting me first!
- Cally:** Darling, **you do have a hand in** this too, you know. It wasn't all dad's fault.
- Lorna&Cally:** Oh no!!!! Oh God!!!
- Cally:** Call an ambulance... quick! Oh my God, I think he's lost so much blood he's passed out.

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) Where did Michael and Lorna crash?

- 2) Why didn't Michael hear Lorna coming?

- 3) Michael says the lawnmower is beyond repair, what is the actual term in English?

- 4) What part of Lorna's car is damaged?

- 5) How much does she think it will cost to repair it?

- 6) What is Michael's solution to the cut on his arm?

- 7) Why did Cally allow Michael to buy the ride-on lawnmower?

- 8) Why does Michael want to finish cutting the lawn?

- 9) What does Cally suggest Lorna does to help her father?

- 10) Why does Cally suggest Lorna help out?

- 11) Why do they call an ambulance?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 265]



95A 95B BROADWAY

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Kim: Karen! It seems like such a long time since we've seen each other!
What's new?

Karen: Well, last week my daughter **jettied off** to New York to work on Broadway, I just can't believe it... most girls her age dream of Broadway so she's really living the dream!

Kim: Wow! I can't believe she's appearing on Broadway! I knew she studied acting but Broadway... wow... That's impressive!

Karen: Well, she's not acting quite yet, she's helping backstage... you know doing the essential things; directing, casting, cleaning...

Kim: Cleaning?!

Karen: Erm, well yes. I mean technically she's a cleaner, although I prefer the term Manager of Cleanliness, but the thing is they'll **spot** her potential any day now and she's far better than any of those other girls, so she'll probably be appearing in a big Broadway production very soon...

Kim: Er, right, yeah of course... I think that's how Angelina Jolie started...

Karen: Probably! And the **silver lining** is that her boyfriend is a director of a musical. I mean at the moment he organises a weekly karaoke show, but that seems to be **the first rung on the ladder**! One click of his fingers and she'll be in a starring role.

Kim: Uh huh, well that's nice. My daughter recently graduated from...

Karen: Funny you should mention that, Kim! Our youngest son recently graduated too, he's always been **a bright spark** and he was expecting to be top in the class, but his classmates obviously cheated and scored slightly higher than him. His lecturers were devastated to see him go because he's so smart he used to correct them during the classes, you know, **nudge them in the right direction** and I think they're really going to miss his expertise.

Kim: Oh my... I'm sure they really will be very sad **to see the back of him**...

Karen: The thing is he can't seem to find a job anywhere. He keeps going for interviews, but I think the problem is he's just too **bright** for any of the graduate schemes... He's currently a food transporter manager.

PISTA 95A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando en un zoo!

PISTA 95B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

What's new? ¿Qué hay de nuevo?

to jet off volar

to spot something darse cuenta de algo

silver lining el aspecto positivo

the first rung on the ladder el primer peldaño

a bright spark una persona inteligente

to nudge someone in the right direction mostrar sutilmente a alguien la dirección correcta

to see the back of someone ver cómo se va alguien

bright inteligente



Kim: A wha...?

Karen: Well, you know, he helps to transport food from the kitchen to customers' tables...

Kim: He's a waiter?

Karen: Anyway, did I tell you about my husband's new promotion? He was headhunted and he's become a...

Kim: Sorry Karen, I'd love to stay and chat, but I've got to do some "perishable replacement"... or as normal people call it, the food shopping!

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) Where did Karen say her daughter had gone last week?

- 2) What job does Kim assume she is doing?

- 3) What job is Karen's daughter actually doing?

- 4) What supposed benefit does Karen's daughter have?

- 5) Why does Karen say that her son's performance at university wasn't as good as expected?

- 6) Why does Karen assume her son's lecturers were sad to see him go?

- 7) Does Kim agree that Karen's son will be missed?

- 8) Which phrase does Kim use that indicates sarcasm when discussing Karen's son's university departure?

- 9) Why is Karen's son unable to find a job according to Karen?

- 10) What is his current job?

- 11) What happened to Karen's husband?

- 12) What excuse does Kim use to leave?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 265]





THE DAY OFF

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Angela: Aren't you late for work? It's nearly ten o'clock.

Jason: Oh did I not tell you? I'm not working today! So put another piece of bread in the toaster! I'll be having breakfast with you today. **How nice is that?**

Angela: How come you're not working? I thought it was becoming really hectic in the office and the boss needed you more than ever?

Jason: Yeah... it is hectic and he does need me, but he told me to take the day off today. He said I deserved a break, so I can go back on Monday refreshed. So come on, where's my **brekkie**?

Angela: Hmm... that doesn't sound like your boss! We can't afford for you to have a day without pay, you know, especially with the baby on the way.

Jason: Erm... yeah I'm sure he'll pay me for it. Anyway, forget about that! Let's enjoy a breakfast together, shall we? We hardly ever get a chance to eat our breakfast together!

Angela: Hmm, do you want tea or coffee?

Jason: Coffee, please, darling. Oh by the way, did I tell you about Lindsay's new dog? She's bought a little puppy, you should see it, it's a little beauty! When are we going to get a dog Angela? We've been saying it for ages, but you always try to **talk me out of it**. Lindsay's puppy is tiny, if we get one like that...

Angela: Jason! We are having a baby! Does that mean anything to you? We can't have a puppy running about the house as well as a newborn baby! Sometimes I wonder what you care about more; having a dog or being a father to this baby!

Jason: No offence, love, but you're becoming a bit obsessed with this pregnancy. Of course I'm looking forward to our baby, but there's no harm in having a puppy as well.

Angela: I'm becoming a bit obsessed with this pregnancy? I've never heard something so stupid in my whole life Jason, honestly! It's hard not to become obsessed with something that's in your belly for nine months! Now, I'm sorry, but I have to say I think you're lying about having a day off work. Your boss would never let any of you have a day off! What's going on?

PISTA 96A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando con el ruido de la lavadora de fondo.

PISTA 96B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

How nice is that?	pregunta retórica para expresar '¡Qué bien! ¿verdad?'
brekkie	una abreviación británica de "breakfast"
to talk someone out of something	convencer a alguien para que no haga algo
to get worked up	alterarse
a P45	un código fiscal que se recibe en el Reino Unido cuando se deja de trabajar



Jason: Nothing's going on. Just calm down, you shouldn't **get so worked up** when you're pregnant. The doctor told you to avoid shouting, didn't he? He said it could raise your blood pressure, do you remember?

Angela: OK, I'll calm down. Look, this is me calm! So are we going to turn this into a guessing game, or are you going to tell me the truth? Why aren't you in work today?

Jason: Angela, I've told you! I've been working really hard and he told me to take the day off. The office is like a jungle at the moment! I think everybody needs a break from there to be honest. That's it.

Angela: So why is there a **P45** in your jean's pocket? You've been sacked, haven't you, Jason?

Jason: What do you mean? I haven't been... Yeah, I have...

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



1) What time does Angela say it is?

2) Why does Jason say he has the day off work?

3) When does Jason say he has to return to work?

4) What does Angela say is on the way?

5) What does Jason want to drink with his breakfast?

6) What has Lindsay bought?

7) Why does Angela say they can't have a puppy?

8) What did the doctor say to Angela about getting worked up?

9) How does Jason describe his office at the moment?

10) What did Angela find in Jason's pocket?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 265]





97A 97B STOP PANICKING!

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Sandra: So, you did water the plants, right?

Gerry: Sandra...

Sandra: And you locked the door, didn't you? And you threw out the milk of course? I don't even want to think of the **stench** when we open the fridge if you didn't. And you left the cat food where you said you would, right? Next to the litter tray and with enough water for Scabby until Tuesday? Oh, poor Scabby, all on his lonesome, he'll get by on his own, won't he? He won't miss us too much, will he? You shut all the windows, didn't you? Laura's sister's friend's cat jumped out of the sixth-storey window, you know. He survived but I mean that's not the point...

Gerry: Sandra!! Stop panicking! **You sound like a broken record!** I locked the door, affirmative. Locked and bolted. I **chucked out** the milk. The cat food is exactly where you asked me to put it. And yes it's his favourite flavors – savory gravy and tasty treats. And I promise... Scabby has more than enough water. **More water than you could shake a stick at...** I'm surprised you're not more worried about him drowning! And what else were you **going on about?** Oh yes, the windows are shut!

Sandra: OK, phew. I did tell you that I'm a nervous traveller. Hold on, we packed the adaptor, right? And my hair straighteners? I couldn't survive a fortnight without them... and the swimming stuff? And the sun cream? And the razor? Oh my gosh; the contact lens solution!! We've forgotten the contact lens solution!!

Gerry: Please! Stop! I packed it! Look, **no offence, but** you're getting a bit hysterical. Before you ask, yes, I've got the credit cards. I renewed the insurance and the passports are in my back pocket. So once and for all relax!!!

Sandra: OK, phew, OK, OK. I'm relaxed.
Totally. I feel fine, really. Holiday,
holiday, woohoo here we come... AR
GHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH
HHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH.

Gerry: Look, we're here. Just get out of the taxi, come on, otherwise we'll miss our flight... Boarding is nearly closing and we haven't even gone through security... Right, where's the check-in desk? Over there, come on!

PISTA 97A
RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que van en un taxi que lleva la música puesta, hasta que llegan al aeropuerto.

PISTA 97B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

stench **hedor**

to sound like a broken recordsonar como un disco rayado

to chuck out.....tirar a la basura

*more.... than you could shake
a stick at* de sobra, para
regalar

to go on about.....hablar sin parar

no offence, but **no es por nada, pero...** (se usa coloquialmente y siempre seguido por algo ofensivo!)

TEMA: STOP PANICKING!



Sandra: My legs can't go that fast, and I'm dragging two suitcases. Wait up!

Gerry: Look there's no one in the queue. Perfect... hurry up Sandra! Ugh if you're going to go that slow, give me the passports and I'll go ahead...

Sandra: But... Gerry... You said our passports were in your back pocket!

Gerry: Noooooooooo....

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



1) What is the first thing Sandra panics about?

2) And the second thing?

3) Why is she worried about the milk?

4) Where did Sandra want the cat food left?

5) What happened to Laura's sister's friend's cat?

6) What are Scabby's favourite flavours of cat food?

7) How much water does Scabby have?

8) What couldn't Sandra survive a fortnight without?

9) Complete Gerry's sentence "No offence, but....."?

10) Where does Gerry say the passports are?

11) What does Gerry realize as he approaches the check-in desk?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 265]







MEETING HIS PARENTS

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Martha: Well, tell all. Did you meet them? I want every detail, come on! I've been dying to find out how you got on.

Jean: What can I say, it was interesting to say the least! I mean, he was nice...ish, but my God she was so aloof. In fact I'd even go as far as to say she was **downright haughty**.

Martha: What? She was aloof and haughty? Why did you come to that conclusion?

Jean: Well, **for starters**, when we arrived his father came out with a big smile on his face and gave me a hug and a kiss on the cheek. I went to give her a hug too, but she quickly stretched out her hand as if she were royalty! To be honest, I didn't know whether to kiss it or bite it! If I'd known then what I know now, I'd have bitten it...

Martha: Weird! Maybe she's just a bit shy, you know shyness can be misconstrued for haughtiness. Anyway, he's her only son and he's very precious so she's probably a bit **iffy** about who's taking her darling son off her hands!

Jean: But at dinner she kept staring at me and looking me up and down without actually saying anything to me. She didn't even ask me one question. Her husband, on the other hand, must have been given a script because he never stopped asking questions. Would you believe he even asked me how many men I'd met before meeting Frank!

Martha: Did you answer him? I mean that's a bit **out of line**, don't you think.

Jean: Of course I didn't answer him, I just said that Frank was the only one who mattered and that I'd never met anyone like him!

Martha: Good answer! And what was Frank doing the whole time you were being interrogated?

Jean: Well I made a discovery. He is **spineless** when it comes to his parents! I mean I was clearly upset several times by the questions and he just smiled and nodded at his beloved mummy and daddy!

PISTA 98A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que se oye la impresora de la oficina al fondo.

PISTA 98B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

downright	absolutamente ; empleamos esta palabra para enfatizar el adjetivo que la sigue
haughty	arrogante
for starters	informal para para empezar
iffy	dudoso
out of line	impertinente
spineless	una persona sin carácter/débil
eye-opener	algo que te abre los ojos y puede cambiar tu opinión

TEMA: MEETING HIS PARENTS



Martha: And when you said it to him afterwards, what did he say?

Jean: He said they were his parents and how did I expect him to react. He said they were his world and he wouldn't let anyone come between them.

Martha: And I hope your response to that was that he could go live with them!

Jean: Well no, but I did say that he could be sure nobody would ever come between him and his mummy and daddy; well certainly not me anyway!!! That visit was the best **eye-opener** ever!

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What does Martha say about her meeting with her in-laws?

- 2) She uses two adjectives to describe her mother-in-law, did you catch them?

- 3) How did her father-in-law greet her?

- 4) How did her mother-in-law greet her?

- 5) What does Martha suggest could be the reason for the mother-in-law's greeting?

- 6) What did the mother-in-law continuously do during dinner?

- 7) What does Jean suspect her father-in-law had been given before the meal?

- 8) What question does Martha think was out of line?

- 9) What adjective does she use to describe Frank after meeting the in-laws?

- 10) What declaration did Frank make about his relationship with his parents?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 265]





BORROWED STUFF

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Michelle: Clara! Hey! I wasn't sure for a second there if it was you! Long time no see!

Clara: Uh yeah.. Hi Michelle! Yeah, sorry, you took me by surprise! I wasn't expecting to bump into anyone at this time in the morning...

Michelle: I know, what a coincidence! I've just started a new job so this is my new route to work. I hate the Piccadilly line, it's so **stuffy** and in rush hour I always get stuck under some guy's smelly **armpits**, ugh. So I've decided to sacrifice a few precious minutes in bed and **beat the rush hour** with an earlier commute. Anyway, enough about armpits! How've you been? I tried calling you loads in the last few months, but I can never seem **to get through**! I haven't seen you since Sandra's wedding!

Clara: It's crazy how time flies, isn't it. Yeah, I've just been really busy lately with this and that...

Michelle: Was it really the wedding the last time we saw each other? That's just ridiculous! Ah, but that was such a fun day, wasn't it? Though it's a shame I lost that necklace I loved so much... But hey, nothing you can do about that, eh? Hey, I've just remembered, you know I lent you those shoes, is there any chance I could get them back sometime? You see, they were my favourite... and I've got this other wedding coming up.

Clara: Which shoes? Ah the cream ones. Yeah, sure. Of course. Ops totally forgot about that, sorry...

Michelle: Oh, no worries at all. Yeah you can keep the gold ones you borrowed, they never fitted me very well anyway. Just those cream ones will **match** perfectly **with** this dress I've bought... So how's everything going with Jimmy? Is he still dreaming of **hitchhiking** around South America, or doing that rally race to Mongolia?

Clara: Yup...

Michelle: And really? How do you manage to look so fresh in the mornings?! I always have the biggest **bags** when I wake up every morning and no amount of **concealer** does the trick. Nothing covers them up! And your clothes, you always have such nice clothes. I mean I love your scarf... hey... hold on... didn't I lend you that scarf?!

Clara: Err, this one? Did you? No, I think it's mine. I had the same one, don't you remember?

PISTA 99A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es el ruido del metro que se oye de fondo.

PISTA 99B

Si no entiendes con el ruido del metro, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>stuffy</i>	sofocante
<i>armpits</i>	axilas
<i>to beat the rush hour</i>	evitar la hora punta
<i>to get through</i>	conectar con alguien por teléfono
<i>to match with</i>	ir a juego con
<i>to hitchhike</i>	hacer autostop
<i>(eye) bags</i>	ojeras
<i>concealer</i>	antiojeras
<i>to go well with</i>	ir bien con
<i>the cheek of it!</i>	¡qué morro!

TEMA: BORROWED STUFF



Michelle: Did you? No, wait a minute! I distinctly remember you borrowing it from me at Sandra's wedding when you were cold, and then you told me you had lost it! And I remember the moment I lent it to you perfectly because it **went well with** your shoes... well, my shoes... the ones you had borrowed... wait just a second... the ones you are wearing!! [Through gritted teeth] Clara! Can I have my scarf back please... I won't take your shoes off you right here as I don't want you going barefoot on the Tube, but my scarf... uhhhh **the cheek of it!**

Clara: Wait, wait, it's just really cold here.

Michelle: Don't make me pull it off Clara... [Gasps] My missing necklace!!!

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) Why does Clara say seeing Michelle took her by surprise?

- 2) Why does Michelle hate the Picadilly line?

- 3) Are Clara and Michelle in the rush hour now?

- 4) What happens every time Michelle tries to call Clara?

- 5) What was the one bad thing about Sandra's wedding according to Michelle?

- 6) What does Michelle suddenly remember when talking about the wedding?

- 7) Which shoes does Michelle want back? What about the other ones?

- 8) What does Jimmy still dream of doing?

- 9) Why does Michelle talk about bags?

- 10) What does Clara reply to Michelle when she asks her if it was her who lent her that scarf?

- 11) What does Michelle distinctly remember?

- 12) Why does Michelle remember that moment perfectly?

- 13) What does Michelle find under Clara's scarf?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en las páginas 265 + 266]





V FACTOR

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



- Rex:** Welcome to the final of V Factor! [Applause] Well, ladies, the time has come to finally decide who will be the winner of V Factor 2013.
- Lori:** OMG, Rex! I am so **freaking** excited! But I'm **struggling** to decide between the Spiced Girls and Two Directions!
- Rex:** Well, tonight is not the night to be indecisive, Lori! Storm, have you managed to make a decision?
- Storm:** [Sighs] It's not easy, Rex; I look at these **wannabes** and think, are they tough enough to **withstand** the constant **put downs** by the media and the general public? In my day it was different...
- Rex:** Eh, right... thanks for that, Storm. I have to confess it was not easy making a decision, but I've slept on it and I'm decided.
- Lori:** That's my Rex! I just can't believe by the end of the show we'll have a winner! It's **mind-blowing** that someone's life will be transformed tonight and they'll be offered a recording deal with the biggest record company in the UK, Rex Records!
- Storm:** You're right, someone's life will be transformed; the poor soul will be thrust into the **limelight** never to escape, never actually see any of the money they make and be played like a puppet on a string by the recording company...
- Rex:** **You crack me up**, Storm. Stop stalling and tell us your decision!
- Storm:** I haven't made my decision. I mean, it's impossible; the Spiced Girls are all dull and can't sing and don't even get me **started on** Two Directions! Do they care more about singing or hair gel?
- Rex:** Er, right, I'm sure Storm is only joking, no need to worry everyone! Lori, please share your decision with us!
- Lori:** Oohh, Rex... I thought you'd never ask [Giggles]! What won me over were the lovely clothes the contestants were wearing... I've never seen so much pink glitter and sparkles! So my decision is... Two Directions!
- Rex:** **Shut up!**
- Storm:** I wish she would...
- Rex:** Storm! Please just tell us your decision.

PISTA 100A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que se oye el ruido del público del programa.

PISTA 100B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

freaking	tan, pero tan (coloquial)
to struggle	esforzarse
wannabes	un quiero y no puedo
to withstand	aguantar
put downs	insultos
mind-blowing	increíble
limelight	centro de atención
you crack me up	me haces reír
to start on	empezar con
Shut up!	¡Anda! (en este caso; normalmente ya sabes que significa 'cállate')
drivel	tonterías



Storm: My decision is I've had enough! I'm off. I'm not getting paid enough to listen to your **drivel!**

Rex: Right, moving swiftly on, you know that I call the shots on this show anyway. Decisions, decisions! Well I'm sure whoever wins tonight will do especially well and, don't worry, I can guarantee that no matter how tired the contestants are, their new single will be available to purchase next week! So get down to your local store to buy it! OK, enough procrastinating; my decision is... Two Directions! Congratulations boys!

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) How is Lori feeling?

- 2) Is she finding her decision easy?

- 3) What is Storm's main concern?

- 4) How did Rex arrive at his decision?

- 5) According to Lori, what will the contestants receive if they win?

- 6) What does Storm think will happen if the contestants win?

- 7) What is Storm's opinion of the Spiced Girls and Two Directions?

- 8) What is Lori's final decision?

- 9) How did she arrive at that decision?

- 10) What do you think Rex means by "shut up" in this context?

- 11) Does Storm give her final opinion?

- 12) What does Storm do in the end?

- 13) Do you think Rex cares about the welfare of the winning act, why?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 266]



101A 101B THE EX

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

- Carly:** Sit down right now, Toby... I got **goss** for you!
- Toby:** You never let me down, Carly!
- Carly:** Well, you know the party I went to last night? You'll never believe who I bumped into!? Jason! After six years! I couldn't believe it!
- Toby:** Jason, your ex? Oh my gosh! And was Brad with you? New boyfriend meets old boyfriend... **awkward**!
- Carly:** I know, right?! At first I just wanted the ground to swallow me up! But then I got chatting to Jason, you know, just **catching up** and I had forgotten how funny he is!
- Toby:** Uh oh, I sense trouble, Carly! I mean, Jason is very funny and he certainly has a lot **more going for him** than Brad, but remember how heart-broken you were when you guys broke up? He dumped you in the shopping centre car park for goodness sake!
- Carly:** I know, I know, but the thing is he was being totally hilarious! Anyway, while I was talking to Jason about his amazing new job, Brad came up to us and he seemed a bit **put out**, which was a total overreaction if you ask me.
- Toby:** Are you honestly telling me that if Brad started talking to his ex, you would be just fine with it? Please! You would be every bit as jealous and you know it!
- Carly:** Well, maybe I wouldn't **be over the moon**, but I certainly wouldn't react the way he did! I turned around for one second to grab a drink and before I could stop it, a fight broke out between the two of them. Talk about mortifying!
- Toby:** **Holy cow!** What did you do? Did you get in the middle and try to break it up?
- Carly:** Break it up? Are you crazy? It was too late for that! By this stage Brad was punching Jason in the head and Jason was kicking Brad in the shins... then things went really wrong and Jason head-butted Brad!
- Toby:** Oh, my God! Poor Brad! Is his face Ok? I mean, he has the perfect nose, it would be such a shame if he broke it...
- Carly:** Well, luckily for him he has a lot of fighting spirit so the brawl continued until the both fell into the **dessert trolley**, destroying the buffet.
- Toby:** [Groans] This gets worse and worse! They sound like they were acting like **love-struck teenagers**!
- Carly:** Who can blame them? Look at me!
- Toby:** Alright, little miss modesty... what happened next?

PISTA 101A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando en un bar.

PISTA 101B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

goss	abreviatura de "gossip" ('chismorreó')
awkward	incómodo/a
to catch up	ponerse al día
more going for him	él tiene más cualidades
put out	ofendido
to be over the moon	ser feliz
Holy cow!	¡Dios mío!
dessert trolley	carrito de los postres
love-struck teenagers	tiene pájaros en la cabeza
to stick around	permanecer cerca



- Carly:** I quickly made an exit! There was no way on earth I was **sticking around** to witness that scrap. But then something really funny happened... I came across Chris at the door to the party.
- Toby:** Chris, your ex from a year ago? Wasn't he the dolphin trainer? The one with the floppy, blonde hair and the dreamy eyes? He really was every girl's dream!
- Carly:** Funny you should say that, Toby, I couldn't agree more! And when I saw his new car I was convinced... so I thought, what's the harm? I left with him and we're going on a date next week to the water park!

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What does Carly have for Toby?

- 2) What happened at the party?

- 3) What does Toby think of the situation?

- 4) What had Carly forgotten about Jason?

- 5) Who do you think Toby prefers between Brad and Jason?

- 6) Why do you think he prefers him?

- 7) What does Toby remind Carly of?

- 8) What was Brad's initial reaction when he saw Carly talking to Jason?

- 9) When Carly turned to get a drink, what happened?

- 10) Why didn't Carly try to break up the fight?

- 11) What is Toby's main concern when he hears about the fight?

- 12) Who does Toby accuse the boys of acting like?

- 13) Who is Chris?

- 14) What convinced Carly to leave the party with Chris??

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 266]





THE FAVOURITE

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



- Agatha:** God, Paul is a **carbon copy** of his mother, isn't he? With those lovely, bouncy curls and big grin, I could swear I was looking at Silvia 20 years ago.
- Ann:** I know, I know. I really shouldn't say it, but he is the absolute **apple of my eye**. Just the sight of him makes me smile. I spoil him rotten, well because he's just so cute, and good, and sweet and gorgeous.
- Agatha:** Ah Ann, although we never want to admit it, we always have our favourites. My Charlie is my favourite; you know my eldest daughter's youngest, little fella. Did I tell you he got best in his class in English?
- Ann:** No, you didn't, but I'm sure you're about to divulge every detail!
- Agatha:** Are you saying I talk too much about Charlie?
- Ann:** No, no, not at all. I would never insinuate such a thing, Agatha. You hardly ever mention him... when you're asleep!
- Agatha:** Hold on now! You can talk all you want about Perfect Paul, but I'm not allowed to talk about Charlie. **You have some cheek**, Ann. I have just listened to you **rave about** Perfect Paul for the past hour and a quarter and now you have the audacity to tell me not to talk about my grandchild.
- Ann:** Agatha, calm down! It was just a little joke. I didn't think you'd react like this. Don't you think you're overreacting a little?
- Agatha:** What? What??? I'm overreacting. Are you having me on?
- Ann:** Oh... so that **throbbing** vein in your neck doesn't mean anything. And that big frown means nothing either, right?
- Agatha:** You're just stirring now and I don't like it. I'm fed up with this conversation, I'm sick of talking about grandchildren and I'm most certainly sick and tired of you!
- Ann:** Same time for lunch then next week then, Aggie?? [To herself] Crazy old bat!

PISTA 102A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que se oye a mucha gente hablando de fondo en la cafetería.

PISTA 102B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

carbon copy	viva imagen
apple of my eye	mi ojo derecho
to have cheek	tener morro
to rave about	exaltarse (de forma más coloquial)
to throb	palpar

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y **responde a las preguntas.**



- 1) Why does Agatha think that little Paul is the image of his mother Silvia?
- 2) Ann says Paul is very special to her, what expression does she use?
- 3) Ann uses four adjectives to describe Paul, can you understand them all?
- 4) Who is the apple of Agatha's eye?
- 5) Agatha mentions an achievement of Charlie's, what is it?
- 6) What sarcastic remark does Ann make about Agatha talking about Charlie?
- 7) How long had Ann been listening to Agatha rave about Paul?
- 8) What does Ann say to try to backtrack?
- 9) How does Ann know that Agatha is really annoyed?
- 10) What does Agatha accuse Ann of doing?
- 11) Agatha says she's finished with a series of things, what are they?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 266]

[illegible]



THE NEW HOUSE

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

Craig: Hi, darling, how has your day been?

Katie: My day has been a total **write-off**.

Craig: Oh no, why?

Katie: Because since we moved into this house I can't work a single thing! I couldn't work the new washing machine, the garage door almost killed me by closing on top of the car and don't even get me started on the stupid voice-activated lights! Why on earth do we need so many gadgets?! I feel like a complete idiot in my own house.

Craig: What? I explained the washing machine to you when we moved in; **in one ear, out the other**. How could you possibly go wrong?

Katie: Well, I pressed the blue button like you told me and then I turned the dial for 40 degrees and pressed the yellow button...

Craig: The yellow button?! Why would you press that? Remember I explained? It's the blue button, turn the dial, and then press the black button, not the yellow one; it's not rocket science!

Katie: Craig, you're starting to **wind me up**... how on earth am I supposed to remember all this? **I can't stand it** when you talk down to me.

Craig: Chill out, it's only a bit of **laundry**! No **biggie**! What happened with the garage door?

Katie: Right, well, I thought I totally got the instructions for the garage door when you explained it, but it turns out I can't work that either. I pressed the button on the side of my car keys, then I waited for ten seconds and went in; halfway through it started closing on me!

Craig: Oh, ten seconds? Yeah, that's where you **went wrong**, I said wait seven seconds, not ten. Next time remember: seven, not ten.

Katie: Craig, you are skating on very thin ice... I'm losing patience... this is ridiculous. I want to be able to park my car, put on my washing machine and maybe even turn on the TV in my own house without having to remember an entire volume of instruction manuals. **I'm at my wits' end**.

Craig: Don't tell me you can't remember the TV instructions! I've explained them about a **dozen** times!



PISTA 103A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando y se oye el ruido de un montón de máquinas.

PISTA 103B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

write-off	pérdida total
in one ear, out the other	entra por un oído y sale por el otro
to wind someone up	reventar
I can't stand it	No lo aguanto
laundry	colada
biggie	uno/a grande
went wrong	lo que fue mal
to be at one's wit end	no saber qué más hacer
dozen	docena
don't start	no empieces



Katie: Craig. **Don't start.**

Craig: OK, OK, I can tell you're a little, eh, stressed. How about a nice glass of wine to relax you?

Katie: Make it a large glass.

Craig: Ha, ha, will do!

Katie: Everything OK, Craig?

Craig: Eh, yeah, fine, by the way, do you happen to remember where the instruction manual for the fridge is? The door won't open...

Katie: You know what, Craig? I'm going to the pub; call me when you manage to get the door open.

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) How does Katie describe her day?

- 2) Why does she describe it like this?

- 3) What does Craig think the problem is?

- 4) Does Katie appreciate Craig explaining how to work the washing machine to her another time?

- 5) What was the problem, according to Katie, with the garage door?

- 6) What is Craig's solution to the problem?

- 7) How does Katie react to this explanation?

- 8) What does Craig suggest to cheer up Katie?

- 9) Does Katie agree to a glass of wine?

- 10) What is the issue when Craig goes to the fridge?

- 11) What is Katie's response to this latest technology issue?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 266]





ARE YOU CALLING ME FAT?

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

Waiter: What would you like, madam?

Emma: Oh, I'm not sure, everything looks too delicious, eh, em, maybe the... oh, I don't know. Neil, you choose first!

Neil: Ha, ha, typical! I'll have the steak, please, with the salad, but can you **hold** the onion rings, please? And could I have the steak rare, please?

Emma: Steak, good choice! I'll have a **well-done steak** and could I have it with chips and onion rings, please? And could I have a **side of salad** too?

Waiter: Certainly, madam. Would you care for anything else?

Emma: Yes, please, could we have some bread for the table?

Neil: Ha, ha, ha! I think your eyes might be bigger than your belly, Emma!

Emma: What?! What exactly are you suggesting?

Neil: Ha, ha, just joking, Emma!

Emma: Oh yeah, "just joking, Emma, I'm not being serious, Emma". **Not that old chestnut again!** You are clearly not joking, you are clearly suggesting I'm fat. This is exactly what I was complaining about last week when we were in McDonalds. I saw you **roll your eyes** when I ordered an ice cream.

Neil: Hold on a minute, have you **lost the plot**? I never suggested anything of the kind! I can't even remember what you ordered in McDonalds, I only cared about getting my burger and **shake**!

Emma: What a load of rubbish! And the other day [Imitates Neil]: "Emma, do you want to come to the gym with me? I think it would be really fun!". Could you be any more **contrived**?! Clearly you think I have to exercise more! Well, myself and my **muffin top** are going to sit elsewhere, where someone appreciates us and lets us eat what we like.

Neil: Good Lord, Emma! Calm down! You've lost your mind! I suggested going to the gym because I want to spend more time with you and I thought it might be a fun couple activity. **end of story!** There was never an ulterior motive; I just wanted to spend a bit of time together... jeez.

Emma: Oh yeah?! Well, how do you explain last week when I asked you to buy me some biscuits and you conveniently forgot, but came home with fruit instead? Do you think I'm so stupid as to not get the hint?!

Neil: What? I went to the fruit shop... they don't even sell your biscuits there and I didn't have to bring you anything, I did it to be nice!

Emma: You know what, Neil, you can insult me all you like...



PISTA 104A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando en un restaurante y se oye el ruido de los clientes.

PISTA 104B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

hold	sin, como en " hold the cream " ('sin nata')
well-done steak	un chuletón muy hecho
side of salad	acompañamiento
not that old chestnut!	¡ya estamos con la misma historia de siempre!
to roll your eyes	poner los ojos en blanco
to lose the plot	írsele la pinza a alguien
shake	batido (abreviatura de "milkshake")
contrived	artificial
muffin top	lorza
end of story!	¡y punto!
I don't give a damn	me importa un bledo
bingo wings	brazos colgones y fofos
you've got a cheek!	¡tienes una cara!

TEMA: ARE YOU CALLING ME FAT?



- Neil:** I'm not insulting you, you crazy woman! I'm trying to be nice to you, sweetheart!
- Emma:** Crazy woman isn't an insult, eh? Well, **I don't give a damn** what you think about me and my **bingo wings**, I'm off! I'll find someone better than you in a day anyway!
- Neil:** **You've got a cheek**, Emma! All I ever did was be nice to you, but now I see the real you, and quite frankly, I think I'm getting a lucky escape.
- Emma:** A lucky escape? You called my fat, you pig! I'm the one getting the lucky escape! I'm going to find someone who really appreciates me, not someone who can't stop themselves from commenting on my weight at every given opportunity.
- Neil:** You know what, Emma? I've never insulted your figure. I think you've got a lovely figure and I've always thought you had some of the best legs I've ever seen. However, while you were obsessing about your weight, you failed to notice my suggestions about that disaster of a haircut you love... seriously, get it fixed!

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What does Neil order?

- 2) What does Emma order?

- 3) What else does Emma order?

- 4) Why does the argument start?

- 5) What does Emma accuse Neil of doing in McDonald's?

- 6) Why does Emma think Neil suggested going to the gym together?

- 7) Why does Neil say he suggested they go to the gym together?

- 8) What happened with the biscuits?

- 9) What does Emma resolve to do?

- 10) Why is Neil surprised?

- 11) How does Neil eventually get revenge?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en las páginas 266 + 267]





THE JOB INTERVIEW

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Betsy: So how did it go my dear?

Dean: I'm pretty sure **it's in the bag**.

Betsy: Really? That's great news! You didn't tell the interview guy that he could go **shove** his **lousy**-no-good-excuse-for-a-job again, did you?

Dean: Nope. I was much more well-behaved this time. I only lied about four times and pretended to be fluent in German. Oh, and I made up my reference... But that's standard practice. They'll never find out.

Betsy: Hmm... I don't know. What if they try and contact this made up reference?? What's the job they're hiring for anyway?

Dean: It's some sort of job driving German's around or something. Not really sure to be honest, but they said they paid for the lunches so I'm **sold**.

Betsy: Wait, wait, wait. Driving people around?? But Dean, you can't drive!!! **How on earth** are you going to be employed as a driver without a driving license?

Dean: Betsy, Betsy, Betsy. That's a mere technicality. I've driven loads. I know exactly what I'm doing. I drive faster than anyone I know and I've only crashed once. I'm basically qualified.

Betsy: But Dean, that doesn't solve the issue of the fact that you don't actually have a driving license!

Dean: You always have to see the glass half empty and spoil my good mood. I thought you'd **be over the moon** that I was finally employed.

Betsy: That's not fair! I am happy for you! I just think they might work out at some point that you don't have a license and the whole thing will fall through. I just don't want you to get your hopes up.

Dean: There you go... always **raining on my parade**...

Betsy: Well, don't say I didn't warn you if it all comes crashing down on top of you.

Dean: All right, well, don't you worry, I won't! This is a sure thing. Anyway, I've always got my mate Rob to fall back on if necessary... he can always **rustle** me **up** a license if it's really that important to them...

Betsy: Dean!!!!

PISTA 105A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando en el metro.

PISTA 105B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>it's in the bag</i>	está en el bote
<i>shove</i>	empujar (en este contexto, 'olvidarse de')
<i>lousy</i>	pésimo
<i>to be sold</i>	a favor de algo, estar entusiasmado
<i>How on earth...?</i>	¿Cómo narices...?
<i>to be over the moon</i>	tocar el cielo con las manos
<i>to rain on someones parade</i>	aguar la fiesta a alguien
<i>to rustle up</i>	maquinar

TEMA: THE JOB INTERVIEW

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What does Betsy ask Dean?

- 2) What's Dean's response?

- 3) What is Betsy concerned about?

- 4) How many times did Dean say he lied?

- 5) What did he make up?

- 6) What job are they hiring for?

- 7) What was it about the job that Dean liked?

- 8) What's the one problem with the job Dean has applied for?

- 9) Why doesn't Dean think that's a problem?

- 10) How many times has Dean crashed?

- 11) What is the expression Dean uses to say Betsy is pessimistic?

- 12) How did he think Betsy would react?

- 13) What is Betsy worried about?

- 14) How does Dean react to this?

- 15) What is Dean's fallback option?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 267]







SKYDIVING

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Colin: Stop being so dramatic! I assure you there's nothing to worry about, hundreds of people all over the world do this everyday and nothing bad ever happens, you'll see.

Cindy: If you say so, Colin, but I must admit the **disclaimer** we just signed hasn't really helped me calm down. I basically just said it's my fault if I **tumble** to my death. That, Colin, is what's concerning me!

Colin: Yeah, but that's just a procedure that everyone has to go through. It doesn't mean that it's actually going to happen; they have to make us sign that to **cover their own backs**. All you need to focus on is doing everything exactly as we were told and you'll enjoy every minute of it. The adrenaline, the air through your hair...

Cindy: Alright, Colin, that's enough, I get the point! I'm going to try to chill out, **my stomach is in knots**! [Deep breath] OK, how long have we got left before the jump?

Colin: About two minutes. If you want, you could always close your eyes and that should help. The only thing you'd have to worry about is missing the view when you first jump, but after a while when we start to balance in the air you'll definitely want to open them.

Cindy: Why's that?

Colin: Well, it'd be extremely hard to keep them closed for a start, at least for me anyway. The curiosity of knowing where you're heading is too much; you have to open your eyes!

Cindy: Maybe you're right, I'll just keep them closed when I initially jump and then open them when I feel comfortable. I'm just worried that I'll be sick... oh my God, what if I'm sick in the air? The wind will blow it back and I'll land with my own vomit on my face! Oh God, I'd not thought about...

Colin: [Interrupting] Cindy, you're getting hysterical again. Just stop worrying about the **ifs and buts** and just focus on having a good time and enjoying the experience. Honestly, you're starting to kind of get me worked up as well, and I was fine before. Just take a deep breath and jump... within a few minutes we'll be landing and you'll be wishing you hadn't worried so much and no doubt you'll want to do it again!

Cindy: OK, OK, you're right. How long do we have left now? It has to be nearly time to jump now, doesn't it?

Colin: 30 seconds. Are you ready? Remember, don't worry. Just have fun!

PISTA 106A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando en un avión, ¡listos para saltar!

PISTA 106B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

disclaimer	descargo de responsabilidad
to tumble	caerse
to cover your own back	coverirse las espaldas
stomach in knots	tener el estómago hecho un nudo
the ifs and buts	los síes y los peros



Cindy: Oh dear... I'm actually going to jump out of a plane; I'm actually going to do this, aren't I? I don't think I've ever been so worried about anything in all my life. How long's left, Colin?

Colin: Ten, nine, eight...

Cindy: Stop counting, that's making me more nervous; just tell me when to jump.

Colin: OK... jump!!!

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



1) How many people does Colin say do what they're going to do everyday?

2) What did they both sign?

3) What does Colin say Cindy needs to focus on?

4) What does Cindy say about her stomach?

5) What does Colin say Cindy can do to help?

6) When does Cindy say she'll open her eyes?

7) What is Cindy worried will happen in the air?

8) What does Colin say she'll be wishing for when she lands?

9) What does Cindy say is making her more nervous?

10) What is Colin's last word to Cindy?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 267]







THE SHOE DESIGNER

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Journalist: Good evening, Mr Who, and thank you for agreeing to this interview **at such short notice**.

Mr Who: My pleasure, darling. I love speaking to journalists from Logue magazine! Logue magazine has always been very kind to me. I have to warn you though; you have to be quick because my fashion show is just about to start.

Journalist: Well, let's **get down to** the questions then, shall we? My first question is, are you happy with the new winter collection?

Mr Who: I am delighted with the new collection, darling! A lot of critics said they were totally baffled by the idea of mixing red, yellow, pink and orange leather all on one shoe, but I think it **pays off** to take risks. I love the way the colours clash; I think it's rather fabulous!

Journalist: I couldn't agree more! I adore the unique mix of colours. So tell me, how do you **come up with** your ideas?

Mr Who: I like to take my inspiration from lots of different sources: nature, society, films and sweet shops, of course!

Journalist: Well, your love of sweets is certainly clear in your new collection. I don't want to **sugar-coat** it, **excuse the pun**, ha, ha!, but some of your critics said you were mad to put real sweets on your shoes, what would you say to them?

Mr Who: I would say stop taking life so seriously! You have to mix things up, darling! For me it seemed like a fabulous idea to put pick'n'mix sweets on our shoes, fashion is supposed to be fun and outrageous!

Journalist: I couldn't agree more, I think your fun-loving attitude is one of the reasons your shoes are popular **the world over**! Unfortunately you can't please absolutely everyone; the press said that after your recent **spat** with Manoyo Blanix, you wanted to **outdo** him with your designs and that was one of the reasons your latest range is so, eh... extravagant.

Mr Who: Nonsense, darling! My latest designs have nothing to do with Manoyo Blanix. People can have disagreements, darling, but we are still the absolute best of friends; after all we mix in the same **circles**... don't believe everything you read in the press... no offense, of course!

PISTA 107A RUIDO DE FONDO

Están manteniendo esta conversación en un desfile de modelos. El problema es que de fondo se oye el ruido de la sala y también el que hacen los paparazzi.

PISTA 107B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

at such short notice	con tan poco aviso
to get down to something	centrarse en algo
to pay off	dar buenos resultados
come up with	proponer, inventar, encontrar
sugar coat something	suavizar un mensaje
excuse the pun	perdonen el juego de palabras
the world over	en todo el mundo
spat	discusión
to outdo someone	superar a alguien
circles	círculo de amigos
tricky	difícil
to blush	ruborizarse

TEMA: THE SHOE DESIGNER



Journalist: No offense taken! Last question; which is your favourite shoe from this collection?

Mr Who: Hmm, **tricky** question! I think the Prilla Shoe is my favourite. It combines pink, green, purple and white fabrics, it has pick'n'mix sweets on the heel, tassels on the toes, it's covered in diamonds and it has a huge platform...

Journalist: [Gasps] It sounds divine!

Mr Who: Oh darling, you're making me **blush**... I have to admit though; I totally agree. It is utterly divine! I think I should rename it Funshu because it is the ultimate fun shoe.

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) Was the interview planned a long time in advance?

- 2) Why doesn't Jimmy Who have much time for the interview?

- 3) Is Jimmy Who happy to do the interview? And if so, why?

- 4) Is Jimmy Who happy with his new collection?

- 5) How do sweets feature in Jimmy Who's designs?

- 6) What would Jimmy Who like to say to the people who criticized his decision of putting sweets on shoes?

- 7) What reasons does the journalist give for Jimmy Who's international popularity?

- 8) What reason do the press think is behind Jimmy Who's extravagant designs?

- 9) What advice does Jimmy Who give the journalist?

- 10) Why does he give the journalist this advice?

- 11) Why does Jimmy Who want to rename his favourite shoe Funshu?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 267]





A COMPLETE SHOCK

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

Owen: How about this for a surprise? Natalie Brown! I've not seen you since second year of **sixth-form**. You're looking great, how are you?

Natalie: Thank you, I'm fine! How are you? You're all **buff** now; not the Owen I remember! Are you one of those gym freaks now? What happened to little skinny Owen with the spiky hair?

Owen: He's long gone now. I'd rather be a gym freak any day than go back to being stick thin. By the way, have you heard about James?

Natalie: James Harrington? No, what happened? Don't tell me he's turned into a bad guy now! Ha, ha I bet he's still a big **swot**, isn't he?

Owen: Not at all... he's serving time for armed robbery! I found out last week that he's in Galloway prison. Apparently he's got to serve at least five years before the chance of parole. Who would have thought it? James Harrington in prison!

Natalie: I'm absolutely **gobsmacked**! He was the most intelligent guy in the class, wouldn't hurt a fly! Wasn't his family quite rich as well? Why did he have to carry out an armed robbery? I can't believe it!

Owen: According to Liam, it wasn't the first one he'd done either. Liam reckons he was part of some kind of organized crime gang. He was living in a massive house and driving about in a huge car... his family wasn't that rich! I wondered a few times how he afforded all that stuff because he never seemed to have a job. Now I know why!

Natalie: Well in that case it serves him right. It's still a massive shock though; I didn't think he **had it in him**!

Owen: You know what they say; it's always the quiet ones! Anyway, tell me about you! How's life?

Natalie: Great, everything's going well with the business and I'm hoping to expand it next year. At the moment though I have to take part in some trial that starts next week. They told me I have to do jury service! I'm gutted; I really don't want to take part in jury service now.

Owen: Ah that's a shame, I'd love to do jury service! I'd get out of work for a few weeks, break the routine and you'll get to find out all about a criminal case. It's quite exciting really.

Natalie: Hmm... if you say so, I'd gladly swop with you if I could.

Owen: Well, I hope it goes OK for you and I hope you get an interesting case! Imagine if it's another old school mate on trial for some major crime! That would be worth it!

Natalie: Ha! Unfortunately I think they make sure no one from jury service knows anyone involved in the case so it's quite unlikely. Oh well... it was lovely to see you Owen, take care!

Owen: See you around!



PISTA 108A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando en la calle.

PISTA 108B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

sixth-form	el sexto año de escuela (RU)
to be buff	estar cachas
swot	empollón
to be gobsmacked	quedarse con la boca abierta
to have it in you to do something	ser capaz de hacer algo

TEMA: A COMPLETE SHOCK

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) When was the last time Owen saw Natalie?

- 2) What kind of hair did Owen used to have?

- 3) What is James serving time for?

- 4) What prison is James in?

- 5) How many years does he have to serve before a chance of parole?

- 6) What does Owen say Liam thinks about James?

- 7) What will Natalie take part in next week?

- 8) Why would Owen love to do jury service?

- 9) What does Owen ask Natalie to imagine?

- 10) What does Natalie say about the panel?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 267]







THE WEDDING

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Gabriela: Hey Alicia, how's it going?

Alicia: I'm so glad you're here, Gabriela. I'm having an absolute nightmare today!

Gabriela: [Sighs] More stressful wedding preparations?

Alicia: You have no idea! The whole thing is turning into a complete disaster. At this stage, I just want to **call it off**!

Gabriela: Alicia, don't be ridiculous. You can't call off the wedding! It's just a few **setbacks**, that's all!

Alicia: Setbacks? Setbacks? My **juggling** clown has cancelled and I still haven't heard anything from the **shadow puppetry** team!

Gabriela: Eh, have you ever thought that these things may not be essential for a wedding?

Alicia: Well, what else would you expect at a wedding? The ceremony, the wedding meal and then a band? You need something to **liven it up**!

Gabriela: Yeah, maybe something to liven it up would be good, I suppose. How did the dress fitting go yesterday?

Alicia: Complete disaster. I looked like a giant **marshmallow**. The bottom was too long, the sleeves were too tight and the **train**... don't even get me started on the train! Everyone comes to see the beautiful bride and I'm going to be hideous!

Gabriela: OK, let's take a deep breath and consider this for just a second. A wedding is supposed to be the happiest day of your life; you are marrying the person that you love in front of all your friends and family... how often do you get that chance?

Alicia: Oh my God, you've just reminded me, some of the guests still haven't **RSVP'd** yet!

Gabriela: You still have over three months to the wedding! Give people some time to reply. After all, you only sent out the invitations two weeks ago.

Alicia: Are you accusing me of sending out the invitations too late? You know that wasn't my fault. The invitation designer said they would take longer because of the special design...

Gabriela: Alicia, chill out! What does Gareth make of all this panicking?

PISTA 109A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando en una cafetería.

PISTA 109B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

to call something off	cancelar algo
setbacks	contratiempos
juggling	hacer malabarismos
shadow puppetry	sombras de marionetas
to liven something or someone up	animar
marshmallow	nube (golosina)
train	la cola de un vestido
RSVP	responda, por favor



Alicia: Who?!

Gabriela: Er, Gareth, you're fiancé?

Alicia: Oh, yeah, ops [Laughs nervously] Well, I'm sure he doesn't mind... I mean the wedding is all about the bride, isn't it?

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



1) What does Alicia threaten to do?

2) What does Alicia list as the setbacks?

3) What do you think Gabriela thinks of these things at a wedding?

4) What does Alicia say she looked like at her dress fitting?

5) What was wrong with the dress?

6) Why is Alicia worried about some of the guests?

7) How long does Alicia have left until the wedding?

8) When did Alicia send out the invitations?

9) What was the problem with the invitations?

10) Who is Gareth?

11) What does Alicia think the most important thing on her wedding day will be?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 268]







THE LOCAL ELECTIONS

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Anchorman: And to give us the latest on the local elections, let's go live to Steven Evens at a **polling station** in downtown New York... Hello, Steven...

Reporter: Hello and good morning to all. Well, here I am in the heart of the electoral **hub** of downtown New York. At the moment I am standing outside the polling station which corresponds to the favourite in this district, Ivan Honest Mann.

Anchorman: Have you received any information on polling figures, Steven? Does Honest Mann still come out on top of the polls? Do you think he'll achieve what he set out to do? Do you think he's a **shoo-in** for his district at least?

Reporter: Well, everything seems to point in that direction, James. The latest figures look very promising for Honest Mann. So far he's top of the poll. His campaign seems to have reached a broad demographic here. We're seeing a very diverse group of... [Pauses for a few seconds]

Anchorman: Hello, Steven... can you hear me??? Sorry, **folks**, we seem to have lost our live connection with Steven in downtown New York. But as he was saying, Ivan Honest Mann appears to be **on the brink of** achieving his goal of getting a seat in the Senate. Hello, Steven? As you were saying, there appears to be a very diverse group...

Reporter: Hello, James... apologies, but... eh... it appears a campaigner for the opposition is trying to sabotage our broadcast! A **staunch** supporter of John Whistlington appears to have been messing with the cables... Yes, as I was saying, it appears that Honest Mann's approach has worked. He tried to reach out to a broader demographic than his predecessors and, given the turnout today, it seems to have worked!

Anchorman: For those of us who perhaps have not been following the campaign, could you fill us in on how he's achieved this?

PISTA 110A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que no se oye bien la emisión por la interferencia de fondo.

PISTA 110B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

the polling station	.....	el colegio electoral
the hub	.....	el sitio donde pasa todo, el núcleo
shoo-in	.....	un candidato que seguro que saldrá elegido
folks	.....	forma coloquial de dirigirse a la gente
on the brink of	.....	a punto de
staunch	.....	acérrimo
bagels	.....	rosca de pan de origen judío muy típica de Nueva York

TEMA: THE LOCAL ELECTIONS



- Reporter:** Well, James, to start with, Honest Mann is from the area. His family have run a renowned bakery for generations on 42nd Street. So in a way, his electorate were within his reach to start with. In fact, until just a fortnight ago he was still serving customers their daily loaf at the bakery.
- Anchorman:** Ha, ha!!! Imagine, Steven, some people may be claiming that a possible presidential candidate served them their **bagels** every morning. From baker to president... quite an achievement, don't you think?
- Reporter:** Ha, ha... well, stranger things have happened!

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What is the report about?

- 2) Where is Steven Evens reporting from?

- 3) What's the favourite candidate's name?

- 4) What position does he currently hold in the elections?

- 5) What does Steven say about the figures thus far for Honest Mann?

- 6) According to Steven, why has he been so successful?

- 7) Why do they lose the live connection?

- 8) How has Honest Mann managed to reach out to such a broad demographic?

- 9) What street is the bakery on?

- 10) Until when was he working in the family business?

- 11) What does James suggest could be a claim to fame for some of the electorate?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 268]





BEING LATE

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Mr Farrell: Nice of you to join us, Dean... when the class is nearly over! What excuse have you got for me today? Were you locked in your house? Did the bus do a detour? Or were you just too **bone idle** to get out of bed on time?

Dean: No, sir, I... I...

Mr Farrell: Save it, Dean, I've heard it all before. Seeing as though you've missed most of the class you can do some **on-the-spot** multiplications before I give out the homework. Eight times seven?

Dean: 48, no! 54. I mean, 56. But Mr Farrell, I don't think I understand. I...

Mr Farrell: What don't you understand, young man? You have been late every day this week, haven't handed in any of your homework, oh, and let me add the fact that your attitude stinks. All in all, you're not exactly the model student at the moment, are you Dean? Do you have anything to say for yourself?

Dean: I've been late every day this week because I've just moved house and it's really far; I have to take three buses and the first bus is always delayed. Plus I've not been well, oh, and my cat died yesterday, plus my mum is also sick, and my dad is working away and...

Mr Farrell: That's quite enough from you; I think I've heard enough of your **tall tales**. I won't disrupt the class with any more of your **far-fetched** excuses. Take out your book and write down the homework. I want you all to do the ten subtractions and 15 multiplications on page 61, then I want you to keep adding to the coursework you started last week. Then, I want you to write a short description of your calculations; I want to see how you ended up with the answers you get. Not just the answer! Understood?

Dean: Erm, Mr Farrell?

Mr Farrell: What now, Dean? Would you like me to add more homework on to that? Is that not enough for you? Let's not forget that I still expect you to hand in all the missing homework... you're not getting away with it!

Dean: No, not at all, sir. It's just that...

PISTA 111A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando en una clase ruidosa.

PISTA 111B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

bone idle	holgazán
on the spot	inmediato
tall tales	trolas
far-fetched	improbable



- Mr Farrell:** Dean... out! Go on, get out of the class and go straight to the headmaster. You can explain your reasons for being there to him yourself, oh, and make sure you tell him that after three weeks of practising multiplications daily you still can't multiply eight times seven without making a mistake.
- Dean:** No! Mr Farrell, I don't understand, that's all!
- Mr Farrell:** Don't add fuel to the fire, Mr! You heard me, out!
- Dean:** But sir, I just need you to help.
- Mr Farrell:** Out!

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What does Mr Farrell want Dean to do as a punishment for being late?

- 2) What multiplication does Mr Farrell give to Dean?

- 3) What's the first answer that Dean gives?

- 4) What does Mr Farrell say stinks?

- 5) Does Dean say his new house is close?

- 6) How many buses does Dean say he has to take?

- 7) What does Dean say about his cat?

- 8) How many subtractions does Mr Farrell give the class for homework?

- 9) What does Mr Farrell want the class to write a short description about?

- 10) Where does Mr Farrell send Dean?

- 11) How many weeks does Mr Farrell say that Dean has been practising multiplications?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 268]





THE FLAT

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

- Harry:** Stephen, I need to talk to you about the flat.
- Stephen:** This flat?
- Harry:** Yeah, this flat. What other flat would I be talking about?
- Stephen:** I don't know, I just thought I'd make sure. I think I know what you're going to say.
- Harry:** Yeah. Well, I figured you would have guessed. I don't know if it's a good idea for us to be living together anymore. To be totally honest, I'm not sure how much longer I can **put up with** our current living situation and I don't want to hurt your feelings, but, to be honest, it's just not working.
- Stephen:** Couldn't agree more, **buddy**.
- Harry:** What? You agree?
- Stephen:** Yeah, of course I do. Things haven't been the same in the flat since the microwave exploded and the atmosphere has been tense to say the least.
- Harry:** Well, I wasn't the one who thought of putting a fork in the microwave, but let's not **get into that** right now.
- Stephen:** Well, everyone can make mistakes as you know after the rubbish disaster. **Mind you**, accidentally leaving the rubbish on the balcony for three days and then being surprised when we suddenly got an ant infestation was quite a large mistake... it's not exactly rocket science, is it?
- Harry:** Well, as you said everyone can make mistakes. The thing we need to discuss is your deposit; I can pay it into your bank account. Let's see, I get paid next week, so by the time I **pop into** the bank it will probably be Wednesday, **does that suit**?
- Stephen:** I think you're getting **mixed up**... I need to give you your deposit back if you're moving out!
- Harry:** OK, well, this is **awkward** because I'm not going anywhere. Do you honestly think that after blowing up the microwave, flooding the bathroom and almost burning down the living room, the landlord would let you stay here alone?



PISTA 112A **RUIDO DE FONDO**

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando en una discoteca.

PISTA 112B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>to put up with someone</i>	aguantar a alguien
<i>buddy</i>	colega
<i>how come...?</i>	¿por qué...?
<i>to get into that</i>	hablar de eso
<i>mind you</i>	eso sí
<i>to pop into</i>	entrar
<i>Does that suit?</i>	¿Está bien?
<i>awkward</i>	embarazoso/a
<i>to get rid of</i>	deshacerse de



Stephen: It's funny you should mention that, Harry, because I spoke to the landlord two days ago and she said it was you she wanted to **get rid of**. After all, you're the one of us that has mystery guests staying at the weekend, parties until 5 in the morning and don't get me started on the neighbour's cat incident...

Harry: What happened to the cat was not my fault! No way!

Stephen: Whatever happens, the landlord wants you out by next Wednesday. Better get packing, huh?

Harry: I can't believe this!

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What does Harry want to talk about?

- 2) How long have they been in their flat?

- 3) What does Harry say the problem is?

- 4) How does Stephen describe the atmosphere since the microwave exploded?

- 5) What caused the microwave to explode?

- 6) What mistake did Harry make?

- 7) When does Harry say he will give Stephen his deposit back?

- 8) Why does Stephen say Harry is getting mixed up?

- 9) When did Stephen speak to the landlord?

- 10) Why does the landlord want Harry to move out?

- 11) When does Harry need to move out?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 268]





THE PRESENTATION

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

Samantha: Is it ready yet? How long does it take to prepare a damn document?? I mean you've had **oodles** of time to prepare it and now the deadline is approaching and you're making the last few finishing touches. I mean what on earth is taking so long???

Elaine: Samantha, it's nearly ready. I just want it to be perfect. It'll make you look better too you know.

Samantha: What's another presentation for me, darling? I can do them in my sleep at this point. I must have done 1,000 by now. You made sure you mentioned that we collaborated on this, didn't you? I mean I wouldn't want you to get all the credit.

Elaine: Yes, Samantha. Your name is the first to be seen on the credits and yes, the font I used is bigger for your name than mine.

Samantha: Well, I am glad that's clear. I wouldn't want you thinking that you were **on a par** with me. After all I'm partner, and what's your title again?

Elaine: I'm actually Vice President of Sales, Samantha. I was promoted when you were on holidays with Jean in Barbados. Remember you got an email informing you of my promotion. The other partners organised a drinks reception to celebrate and I must say it was a great night.

Samantha: Oh yes! It **rings a bell**. Must have deleted it with all the other rubbish emails I got after my holidays. By the way, which client are we meeting again?

Elaine: It's Brown Inc., you know, the electrical appliances company. They're our biggest client at the moment. They have a multi-million euro annual **turnover**. Now, do know who I'm talking about?

Samantha: Why don't you just say that group of boring **suits** with no personalities are coming? You know there's not one **looker** among them.

Elaine: Oh sorry, I didn't know that was a prerequisite for your clients. They have to be good-looking, do they?

Samantha: Darling, I could tell you a thing or two about client relationships!!

Elaine: Thanks, Samantha, but I'd rather you kept your advice to yourself for now... I've been doing just fine without it!



PISTA 113A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que se oye a mucha gente hablando de fondo en la oficina.

PISTA 113B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

oodles	cantidad de algo (se pronuncia /úudels/)
on a par	estar a la par con algo/alguien
to ring a bell	sonarle a uno
turnover	ventas
suits	ejecutivos de forma despectiva
looker	guapo

TEMA: THE PRESENTATION

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y **responde a las preguntas.**



- 1) What's approaching for Samantha and Elaine?
- 2) Why is Samantha annoyed with Elaine?
- 3) What does Samantha say about presentations?
- 4) How many has she done according to her?
- 5) What position does Samantha have?
- 6) What is Elaine's title?
- 7) Where and with whom was Samantha on holidays?
- 8) What did Samantha do with the celebratory email regarding Elaine's promotion?
- 9) What's the name of the client they're meeting?
- 10) What kind of a turnover do they have?
- 11) Why doesn't Samantha like them?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 268]

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. On the left side, there is a vertical red margin line. In the top-left corner, there is a small circular icon containing a pencil and eraser symbol. The entire page is set against a dark background.



RETURN BUSINESS

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Isabelle: I don't know what was up with this woman, but she had a **bee in her bonnet**, that's for sure. She decided to take it out on me unfortunately. All I asked was if there was somewhere I could return the clothes I'd bought the day before. **Next thing I know**, she's shouting in my face.

Judith: What do you mean she was shouting in your face? Why? Gosh, she certainly hadn't been trained in customer service. I don't understand though. **Start from the top**, will you?

Isabelle: As I said, I just wanted to return the clothes I'd bought the day before. Too small... don't even go there. I know I have to lose a few pounds, blah, blah, blah. Anyway, I didn't know where I could exchange them, so I naturally went to the till thinking they could help me there. I asked politely if I could return the items I'd bought. She turned to me and if looks could kill, I'd be **stone dead** by now.

Judith: But I don't get it, it's a very simple question and it wouldn't kill her to respond in a civil manner.

Isabelle: I know that, but she obviously found it insulting and irritating, to say the least. She shouted: "For the millionth time today, we don't do refunds on sale items!! It's written everywhere, on the wall behind me, on your receipt. Honestly, why are the people who shop here so stupid?"

Judith: Wow!!! That's harsh. She was obviously seriously lacking in job satisfaction. I just can't believe that she would talk to a customer like that. She'll kill return business if they put the likes of her **on the front line**.

Isabelle: Tell me about it! I mean, I didn't know whether to cry or kill myself laughing because it was so **uncalled for**.

Judith: I hope you asked to speak to the manager, did you?

Isabelle: You bet I did. I wasn't going to let her away with this. What if she had reacted like that with an elderly person or a child **for that matter**?

Judith: Good woman! Well, what did the manager do?

Isabelle: Very little, to be honest. She apologised profusely, but I didn't see her say anything to her. In fact, I think she was a bit afraid of her.

PISTA 114A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que se escuchan voces de fondo.

PISTA 114B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

to have a bee	tener una
in your bonnet	preocupación, estar preocupado por algo
next thing I know	próximo paso
to start from the top	empezar desde cero
stone dead	"stone" enfatiza el carácter rígido y frío de la muerte
on the front line	de cara al público (en este contexto)
uncalled for	algo innecesario
for that matter	de hecho

TEMA: RETURN BUSINESS



- Judith:** Did you get your money back?
- Isabelle:** Yeah, I did, and a voucher for €100 for the inconvenience caused.
- Judith:** So, do you think she was let go?
- Isabelle:** Not at all, but as karma would have it, when she turned around I saw there was a massive bird poo down her back. Of course I never said a word. Ah, revenge is so sweet!!!

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What question caused such a drastic reaction from the shop assistant?

- 2) According to Judith, what training did the shop assistant lack?

- 3) When had Isabelle bought the clothes?

- 4) Why was she returning them?

- 5) What did the shop assistant shout at Isabelle?

- 6) She names two places where this is written. Which ones?

- 7) What comment does Judith make regarding this shop assistant's effect on business?

- 8) Who did Isabelle ask to speak to?

- 9) What was Isabelle's observation about the manager?

- 10) What does Judith ask about the shop assistant finally?

- 11) Why is revenge so sweet?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 268]





THE PAINTING JOB

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

Telmo: Ta-dah! Well, what do you think of my paint job? I think it turned out rather well. I'm **chuffed** with it.

Delme: Well, yeah... it's OK. It's a bit **streaky**. How many **coats** did you have to paint?

Telmo: Well, that's the thing. I had to do about three coats to get it right. It took me much longer than I'd estimated. The original colour was dark blue and, as you can see, it's yellow now, so the dark blue kept showing through.

Delme: Yes, it is a rather bright shade of yellow. Is it supposed to be this **loud**? I think you underestimated just how bright it was. It's so important to paint a good-sized colour swatch before you start and of course, to know the size of the room.

Telmo: I like bright colours! But I see what you mean. It is a little claustrophobic. Hmm... The next time I paint a room, I'll prepare more. On the first day I was using just a normal paintbrush and my back was killing me after a few hours.

Delme: I think you really underestimated just how much effort it takes to paint a room. I would have lent you some **rollers** and an **extension pole** if I'd known you were going to paint. That way, you could have avoided overexerting yourself so much.

Telmo: Too late!! And just for the record, I don't want to paint another room for a long time. I had so many problems with the paint. For a start, I didn't mix it properly and it was a little **runny**. Then, I overestimated how much paint I needed and it was dripping everywhere. The instructions on the tin were oversimplified.

Delme: That explains why it's so streaky in places. And look! It's peeling over there. How can it be peeling already? You have to remove dust and dirt before you start. If not, the paint won't go on properly.

Telmo: There was a little dust in that corner... and I just painted over it.



PISTA 115A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que suena una radio de fondo.

PISTA 115B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

chuffed	.....	muy satisfecho
streaky	.....	veteado/a
coat (of paint)	.....	capa (de pintura)
loud	.....	chillón en cuanto a colores
roller	.....	rodillo
extension pole	.....	palo alargador
runny	.....	aguado/a
masking tape	.....	cinta de pintor
skirting board	.....	rodapié
drips	.....	goteos

TEMA: THE PAINTING JOB



- Delme:** You did what? You can't do that? 80% of your time needs to be spent on preparation. You can't paint over dirt or dust. And you mustn't have used any **masking tape** to protect the **skirting boards** and window frames. There are **drips** all over them. You didn't use any masking tape, did you?
- Telmo:** No. What's that?
- Delme:** You've got to be kidding!
- Telmo:** I'm not. I'm an absolute beginner at this.
- Delme:** Come on, get your brushes out. We need to give this one more coat. I'll help you. Practice makes perfect!

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) How does Telmo think the paint job turned out?

- 2) Why did he have to paint three coats?

- 3) What advice did Delme give Telmo regarding the colour?

- 4) What did Telmo say he would do the next time he painted a room?

- 5) What did Delme say he would have lent Telmo if he'd know he had been painting?

- 6) Does Telmo want to paint another room any time soon?

- 7) Why was the paint runny?

- 8) What did Telmo say about the instructions on the tin?

- 9) Is the paint streaky in the whole room? How did Delme describe it?

- 10) What does Delme say Telmo mustn't have used?

- 11) How does he know that Telmo hasn't used any masking tape?

- 12) What advice does Delme give Telmo at the very end of the dialogue?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 269]





THE HALLOWEEN COSTUME

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.

- Chris:** Oh my God. Just **look what the cat dragged in!**
- Ruth:** Do I look **dishevelled** enough? They gave me a discount in the costume shop! I think I look great. I'm afraid of my own shadow!
- Chris:** Well, you certainly scared me. You **made my blood run cold** when you came into the room.
- Ruth:** I really want to win first prize at the Halloween Fancy Dress Ball.
- Chris:** I still don't know what to wear. I want something very disturbing and disgusting.
- Ruth:** Your costume last year was a disaster, so anything will be an improvement on that. I want you to **scare me out of my wits** this year. I want you to make the hairs on the back of my neck stand on end.
- Chris:** I've been **twisting and turning** all night and I've come up with nothing.
- Ruth:** We could always ask Georgina. She always has really **gory** costumes. Last year she scared me out of my wits when she emerged from the bathroom.
- Chris:** Yes, I can't understand how she didn't win anything. Maybe it was the smell of disinfectant from the bandages she was wearing. It was really gross.
- Ruth:** Yes, she was so disappointed not to get even a consolation prize. Honestly, Chris, do you think I can **pull it off** this year? I try so hard every year.
- Chris:** Yes, my love, but let's get back to my costume. For once, I **want to give Georgina the heebie-jeebies**. Do you know what I mean? I'm tired of her always scaring us!
- Ruth:** That's going **to be a tall order**. Georgina has **nerves of steel**. She doesn't scare easily.
- Chris:** I think I have just the idea. Come here. [Whispers something inaudible to Ruth]
- Ruth:** Ha, ha, ha, ha! You're terrible, Chris. You're a disgrace to your parents. But yeah, I think that will scare her to death. Let's go and get all the things we need.



PISTA 116A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que suena una radio de fondo.

PISTA 116B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>Look what the cat dragged in!</i>	¡Mira qué pinta traes!
<i>dishevelled</i>	desaliñado/a
<i>to make someone's blood run cold</i>	helarle la sangre a alguien
<i>to scare someone out of their wits</i>	dar a alguien un susto de muerte
<i>twisting and turning</i>	dando vueltas en la cama
<i>gory</i>	ensangrentado/a
<i>to pull something off</i>	conseguir hacer algo casi imposible
<i>to give somebody the heebie-jeebies</i>	darle a alguien yuyu
<i>to be a tall order</i>	es mucho pedir
<i>nerves of steel</i>	nervios de acero

TEMA: THE HALLOWEEN COSTUME

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What did they give Ruth in the costume shop?

- 2) Did Ruth scare Chris?

- 3) What does Ruth really want to win?

- 4) What does Chris want to wear?

- 5) What did Ruth say about Chris' costume last year?

- 6) What was the first thing they said about Georgina?

- 7) What effect did she have on Ruth when she emerged from the bathroom?

- 8) How did Chris describe the smell of disinfectant?

- 9) What does Chris want to do to Georgina?

- 10) What is Chris tired of?

- 11) Why won't Georgina be scared?

- 12) What do Chris and Ruth do at the very end of the conversation?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 269]







BEING SICK

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Terry: Jackie! It's time to get up! Come on! Stop pretending to be sick. It's not funny. And don't say you have morning sickness because we both know you're not pregnant.

Jackie: [Mumbling] I feel awful! I'm under so much pressure at work. What if I've come down with mumps? Or chicken pox? Or worse still... dysentery? Noooo!

Terry: You're such a hypochondriac. You look the picture of health to me. All those pills you pop should prevent almost any illness known to man.

Jackie: [Sighs] Can they prevent ebola? Well, can they? Look at me!!! I'm **as pale as death** and I was **feeling on top of the world** yesterday.

Terry: Well, maybe it was something you ate last night. Your allergies always **flare up** when you eat seafood and you insisted on eating oysters. You know what the doctor told you!

Jackie: Yes... I know! It's not an allergy, Terry. I didn't **come out in a rash** or anything. I'm definitely **coming down with** something. Let's look online and see if we can predict what it is.

Terry: I'll call Dr Patel and see if he can fit you in this morning. Did you know that his wife is **in the family way**?

Jackie: What? Again? But she just had a baby six months ago.

Terry: Hmm, you do **look** a little **green around the gills**. You'd better get back into bed and rest. I'll try to pressure Dr Patel into making a house call.

Jackie: Pressure??? Dr Patel? He never makes house calls. Oh, Terry, I'm not feeling well at all. Instead of calling Dr Patel, call that fortune teller on TV to see if she can predict what's wrong with me.

Terry: Now you are **losing your marbles**! I'm going to get the thermometer. I'll need to advise the doctor if you **have a temperature**.

Jackie: I feel horrible. Why do I always fall ill? It's just not fair. You never, ever get sick...

Terry: ...and that's because I take care of myself. I'll ask Dr Patel if he can prescribe some **happy pills** for you. You need them. Urgently.

Jackie: As long as I'm **on the mend** by tomorrow, I don't care what he prescribes... [Groans]

PISTA 117A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que suena una radio de fondo.

PISTA 117B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>as pale as death</i>	.....tan blanco como la leche
<i>to feel on top of the world</i>	.....estar en la cima del mundo
<i>to flare up</i>	.....tener un brote de algo
<i>to come out in a rash</i>	.....salir un sarpullido
<i>to come down with</i>	.....contagiarse
<i>in the family way</i>	.....embarazada
<i>to look green around the gills</i>	.....no tener aspecto muy sano
<i>to lose your marbles</i>	.....volverse loco
<i>to have a temperature</i>	.....tener fiebre
<i>happy pills</i>	.....pastillas antidepresivas
<i>on the mend</i>	.....en recuperación

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y **responde a las preguntas**.



- 1) What did Terry tell Jackie to stop doing?
- 2) What three illnesses did Jackie mention?
- 3) What should prevent almost any illness known to man?
- 4) How did Jackie say she had been feeling the previous day?
- 5) When do Jackie's allergies flare up?
- 6) What did Terry say that Jackie had insisted on eating?
- 7) What did Jackie say about a rash?
- 8) When had Dr Patel's wife had her baby?
- 9) What does Terry advise Jackie that she'd better do?
- 10) What does Jackie want the fortune teller to do?
- 11) What does Terry need to let the doctor know?
- 12) What does Terry want Dr Patel to prescribe for Jackie?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 269]

[illegible]

I'M FABULOUS

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Monica: Esther! You look absolutely ridiculous. What do you think you are doing?

Esther: Get a life, sis! Look at me! I'm fabulous. I exude confidence and sex appeal.

Monica: Don't make me laugh. You look about as exotic as one of those people who go out into the jungle and suffer terribly on a reality show. It's just pathetic!

Esther: You mean, you think I look like a celebrity? That is the nicest thing that you have said to me this month. Seriously! And for that, I am going to take you with me this evening. Be prepared!

Monica: Oh no!!! Not another one of your **hair-brained** plans. What's it for this time? You had your 15 minutes of fame last year when your mobile phone exploded at work and a very **hunky** fireman had to extinguish the fire.

Esther: You mean Danny? We still see other from time to time.

Monica: I don't want to know about your private life. When are you just going to realise that **you've missed the boat**? I hate to see you getting crushed with the constant rejections.

Esther: You are such a **wet blanket**. I can't believe we are twin sisters... we are **like chalk and cheese**. This time, I've found a show that will know exactly how to exploit all my strong points.

Monica: You're not going to sing, are you? They've already told you on V Factor never to return. You will be exiled to Greenland if you show up there again.

Esther: The V Factor? No way. They are not ready for a woman like me who has seen **first-hand** the excesses of the rock'n'roll lifestyle.

Monica: The only excesses you have seen are the ones on the Learning Channel. You watch far too much TV. It can't be good for you.

Esther: It's funny that you mention television because that's exactly where you'll be seeing me every day for the next couple of weeks? On Take or No Take!

Monica: [Squeals] Are you serious? Oh my God! It's my favourite show! My sister is going to be on Take or no Take. This is unbelievable! Get in the car now! Now!

PISTA 118A **RUIDO DE FONDO**

La dificultad del audio es que suena una radio de fondo.

PISTA 118B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

hair-brained	descerebrado
hunky	macizo
to miss the boat	perder el tren
wet blanket	aguafiestas
like chalk and cheese	como la noche y el día
first-hand	de primera mano

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y **responde a las preguntas.**



- 1) What does Esther think she exudes?
- 2) What does Esther say is the nicest thing that Monica has said to her that month?
- 3) What kind of fireman extinguished Esther's phone?
- 4) How often do Esther and Danny, the fireman, see each other?
- 5) What does Monica hate to see?
- 6) What kind of sisters are Monica and Esther?
- 7) What was Esther told on the V Factor?
- 8) What does Monica say about the amount of time that Esther spends watching TV?
- 9) Where does Esther tell Monica she will see a lot of her for the next couple of weeks?
- 10) What does Monica tell Esther to do?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 269]

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. On the left side, there is a vertical red margin line. In the top-left corner, there is a small red circular icon containing a white checkmark. The entire page is set against a dark background.



THE BUDGET AIRLINE

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Isa: Honestly, I abhor flying with budget airlines. Why on earth do we have to queue for so long for everything? We must have been here for at least an hour.

Garry: Chill out, Isa! I beg you to abstain from having one of your **hissy fits**! We'll get to the top of the queue eventually. Remember you need to put your handbag into the **carry-on**. You're only allowed one piece of hand luggage remember.

Isa: Are you for real? This is ridiculous. I'm just going to take it out as soon as I get on board anyway. It's a farce this whole thing.

Garry: Stop moaning, Isa! Thanks to these cheap flights we're able to go home so often.

Isa: True, but I hate feeling like a piece of dirt. They treat the passengers so badly. I honestly feel like a sheep being herded into a pen. That ground hostess over there is definitely **giving me dirty looks**. She looks like she's **sizing up** my bag. She's probably going to make me pay for it.

Garry: Gosh... could you be more dramatic?! Think about it. You'll see your family and your friends in a matter of hours. We just have to adhere to some silly rules for now, but remember the end goal of the whole process.

Isa: She's definitely looking at me again, Garry. Look! Why am I so nervous? She's not going to strangle me. I mean all she can say to me is that I haven't adhered to the baggage rules and that I can't take it on board. Oh no, I'm really sweating now. I'm not sure it was a good idea to put my two coats on at once.

Garry: Breathe! Come on now. We're nearly at the top of the queue. You're not going to be interrogated. We're adhering to their rules and we have nothing to worry about... really.

Isa: You're right, you're right! I'm going to channel my zen-self. I honestly abhor this flying nonsense. Look we're next. Do you have the boarding passes ready?

Ground hostess: Sir, I'll need to measure your bag. It doesn't look like you've adhered to the measurement requirements. Could you place it in here, please?

PISTA 119A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que no se oye bien la emisión por la interferencia que suena al fondo.

PISTA 119B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

<i>to throw a hissy fit</i>	ponerse hecho una fiera
<i>carry-on</i>	equipaje de mano
<i>to give a dirty look</i>	mirar a alguien con odio
<i>to size up</i>	evaluar de forma informal (se suele usar para personas)
<i>to jut out</i>	sobresalir (similar a "to stick out")

TEMA: THE BUDGET AIRLINE



Garry: Ehm... sure no problem. It should fit. [Struggle] There you go! See... perfect!
Groud hostess: Ahm... no, it's far too big. It's **jutting out** over the top. However... I'm going to let you off the hook this time. You're clearly travelling with a very nervous passenger.
Garry: Thank you so much. [Turns to Isa] Now... are they absolved of all sins?

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What type of airline are they using?

- 2) Why is Isa complaining so much at the beginning?

- 3) What does Garry ask Isa to abstain from doing?

- 4) What does Garry tell Isa to do with her handbag and why?

- 5) What are they able to do thanks to their cheap flights?

- 6) What does Isa feel like when she's flying with cheap airlines?

- 7) What does she say about the ground hostess?

- 8) What does Garry tell Isa to remember in order to calm her down?

- 9) What does Isa say will happen if her bag is too big?

- 10) What does Isa regret doing now?

- 11) What does Isa say she's going to do to calm herself down?

- 12) Why are they let off the hook for having a big bag in the end?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 269]





THE REPORT

Antes de empezar a leer el texto de la conversación, intenta **entender el 100% de la pista de audio**.



Leon: It's such a shame that this is happening. There must be something we can do. First, I suggest you devise a plan in case she tells her side of the story first. You need to make sure you're prepared! Don't let them **catch you off guard**.

Karen: What's the point, Leon? They'll probably refuse to listen to me. You know how they are; the bad guy always wins in this place.

Leon: It's still better to be prepared! You need to decide what your defense is going to be. You have to say something; you can't let her get away with this!

Karen: What do you suggest I do, Leon? If they don't like what they hear, they could fire me. I'm sure it'd be easier for them that way, they'd avoid the **hassle**. They'd carry on the same, pretending like nothing's happened, she'd keep her job and I'd probably be out on the street. How exactly is that a good idea?

Leon: It won't be easy, I admit that. However, if you don't stand up for yourself, she'll be able to do this to other people. It takes someone with **guts** to stand up to her and I think you should do it. In the end people will respect you more for speaking out against what was wrong. Plus, I'll **back you up**.

Karen: I don't know. It's a lot of hassle for something that may end up costing me my job. My working life would be hellish! Can you imagine everybody talking about it and gossiping?

Leon: You'll get over that and in the long run it'll be better for you. You're bound to be worried about what might happen, but I'm 99% positive that it will work in your favour. I mean, she personally insulted you and your family more than once! She purposely made you feel bad and you're not the only person she's done it to. OK, so she may be a boss, but she's not the big boss. Anyway, how do you know the other bosses like her? It's probably just a big cover up, they probably can't stand her either.

Karen: Hmm... maybe I'm overreacting. Maybe I shouldn't have **taken it to heart**.

Leon: Karen, she chose her words very carefully. She intended to hurt you, to embarrass you and to make you feel inferior. Don't tell me you're overreacting, because if anything, you're underreacting!

PISTA 120A RUIDO DE FONDO

La dificultad del audio es que están hablando en un comedor bastante ruidoso.

PISTA 120B

Si no entiendes con tanto ruido de fondo, también puedes escuchar la conversación sin ruido alguno.

A BIT OF HELP!

to catch someone off guardtomar por sorpresa
hassle.....lío

to have guts.....tener agallas

to back someone up.....respaldar a alguien

to take something to heart.....tomarse algo a pecho



Karen: OK! I'll go to Mr Pimms' office later. I'll tell him I want to file a report. Can you come with me?

Leon: Of course, I've waited a long time for a good enough reason to rat on her!

Karen: Fine, but let me do the talking. I want to make sure I tell the story exactly how it is, you know?

Leon: I'll behave myself. Oh and if I were you, I wouldn't tell anyone else; they'll only try and deter you. Just keep your head down and we'll go together after lunch, OK?

Karen: Thanks, Leon.

Escucha la conversación que aparece en los audios y responde a las preguntas.



- 1) What does Leon suggest Karen does?

- 2) What does Karen fear could happen if they don't like what they hear?

- 3) Why does Leon think people will respect Karen more in the end?

- 4) What did Veronica do to Karen?

- 5) Is Karen the only person who has had problems with Veronica?

- 6) According to Leon, what did Veronica intend to do when she insulted Karen?

- 7) What is Karen going to do when she goes to see Mr Pimms?

- 8) Why is Leon so eager to accompany Karen?

- 9) Why does Karen want to do the talking?

- 10) Why does Leon tell Karen not to tell anyone?

- 11) When are they going to see Mr Pimms?

[Encontrarás las respuestas en la página 269]



Soluciones

EI TEMA 1 – pág. 9

- 1) No, Ant is not impressed with Nat's jacket.
- 2) Ant thinks it looks like Nat bought the jacket at a flea market.
- 3) Yes, it was dear according to Nat.
- 4) The arms look like they're about to fall off the jacket, according to Ant.
- 5) Nat describes the look of the jacket as 'worn'.
- 6) Ant would like to cut off the thread hanging off Nat's jacket.
- 7) No, *"to be off one's horse"* does not mean *"to be angry"*. It means *"to be crazy"*.
- 8) Nat thinks that Ant's jacket is out of fashion.
- 9) No, Nat's opinion doesn't bother Ant.
- 10) Nat describes Ant's jacket as buff.
- 11) The most important prerequisites for a good jacket, according to Ant, are that it be comfortable and warm.
- 12) That it be stylish.

EI TEMA 2 – pág. 11

- 1) Yes, Joe thinks that Adam should get to know his girlfriend better before going to visit her.
- 2) Joe is against Adam's plan to visit his girlfriend because it's a long trip and he doesn't know her well enough.
- 3) They've been an item for over a month.
- 4) Joe thinks that the expression "going out" is inappropriate because they have never physically been on a date.
- 5) Adam feels he knows Amy better than anyone else in the world.
- 6) Joe is sure that Adam doesn't know if Amy has bad breath or not.
- 7) No, this doesn't worry Adam.
- 8) No, Adam isn't taking a late flight tomorrow.
- 9) The flight is first thing in the morning.
- 10) Adam has still got to pack before he leaves.
- 11) He'll do it when he gets home.
- 12) Joe reminds Adam to pack some mouthwash.

EI TEMA 3 – pág. 13

- 1) Wendy feels the place needs a complete revamp.
- 2) No, John doesn't agree.
- 3) Wendy mentions the fact that the paint is peeling off the walls and the wallpaper in the bedroom is hideous.
- 4) John objects to hiring a personal interior designer to do the job.
- 5) Alan decorated Ed's town house last year.

- 6) John thinks that Ed's front room looks like a chill-out zone in an exclusive disco.
- 7) Yes, Wendy thinks that Ed is happy with what Alan did.
- 8) Alan had the decorations sent from Tibet.
- 9) John thinks that his mate Steve should do the job.
- 10) John thinks he should do it because he's a reliable painter and decorator, and he's cheap.
- 11) Wendy doesn't think that it's a good idea because Steve has no style.
- 12) John suggests that they could spend the money they would save on a trip to the Far East.
- 13) John has the vision of ending up living in a Buddhist temple with disco lighting.

EI TEMA 4 – pág. 15

- 1) Wayne is very surprised. He can't believe his eyes.
- 2) Wayne jokingly questions whether he has slipped into a parallel universe.
- 3) John has a mop in his hands.
- 4) Wayne describes John's room as looking like a bomb has just hit it.
- 5) John's rather weak explanation is that people change.
- 6) John loves the mop.
- 7) He describes it as therapeutic.
- 8) He says that Wayne should try it.
- 9) According to Wayne, the main reason that they're flatmates, apart from being good friends, is that they've always had a similar attitude towards housework.
- 10) John tells Wayne to imagine how it would feel to walk into a clean, fresh-smelling flat every day.
- 11) That would be novel, according to Wayne.
- 12) John also tells Wayne to imagine the feeling of knowing where everything is.
- 13) Wayne eventually decides to descale the teapot.
- 14) Right at the end, John reveals that his parents are coming over to visit.

EI TEMA 5 – pág. 17

- 1) Rose thinks Helen's crying.
- 2) Helen's eyes are watering because of some onions.
- 3) Helen's making a quiche.
- 4) The problem is that Helen doesn't have half the ingredients.
- 5) Helen needs shallots for the recipe.
- 6) She's using onions instead.
- 7) No, the cook book that Helen's using isn't old; it's only just come out.

- 8) Charles Arginsworth is a famous TV chef.
- 9) No, Helen and Rose don't think it'll make much difference if shallots are used instead of onions.
- 10) Rose thinks shallots are small onions.
- 11) The situation makes Rose wonder who some chefs are writing cook books for.
- 12) The only thing Helen wants is for is for everything to be perfect.
- 13) Rose tries to console Helen by telling her that the quiche will probably taste better with onions instead of shallots.
- 14) Helen asks Rose to pass her fresh dill weed and lemon pepper.

El TEMA 6 – pág. 19

- 1) Jay asks Alex if he's seen Dom lately.
- 2) Jay saw him at a pub last Friday.
- 3) No, Dom was with his girlfriend.
- 4) Alex didn't mention anything to Dom because he didn't want to talk to him about his strange behaviour in front of his girlfriend.
- 5) He thinks someone needs to talk to Dom before he goes and ties the knot.
- 6) Jay thinks that Jenny's adorable, that there's nothing wrong with her.
- 7) Alex thinks that Dom is probably just scared about making his final, life-long commitment.
- 8) No, he doesn't behave strangely when Jenny is with him.
- 9) He's been getting blind drunk and trying to chat up any girl that has a heartbeat.
- 10) No, he hasn't done anything bad yet.
- 11) Jay says he hasn't done anything bad yet because he's always been awful at chatting girls up.
- 12) They're worried about Dom's stag party.

El TEMA 7 – pág. 21

- 1) No, the journalist says it was arranged at short notice.
- 2) He has to do a lot of other interviews in the same morning.
- 3) No, it isn't. It's for *El Mundo*.
- 4) According to the journalist, *El Mundo* has well-rounded, cultured readers.
- 5) Because Mikhail has lead such a fascinating life.
- 6) In Russia before the Second World War.
- 7) He was one of the most important dancers and choreographers of the twentieth century and is very modest.
- 8) He says he is only a dancer, that it's not a matter of life and death.
- 9) No, she thinks it's art.
- 10) She thinks it sounds frivolous.
- 11) He tells her she is charming and intelligent.

El TEMA 8 – pág. 23

- 1) The girl that Nadia notices is sitting next to a column.
- 2) Yes, Tania thinks the girl looks like someone she knows.
- 3) According to Tania, she looks like Cynthia.
- 4) No, Nadia doesn't agree with Tania.
- 5) She thinks that Cynthia looks much younger than the stranger.
- 6) She says that they both have short hair and wear ill-fitting clothes, funny-looking hats and too much make-up.
- 7) Yes, Tania likes Cynthia very much.
- 8) She doesn't like her look.
- 9) No, she doesn't.
- 10) The stranger gets up and walks towards them.
- 11) Nadia tells Tania to tell the woman the truth.
- 12) Tania takes Nadia's advice very literally.

El TEMA 9 – pág. 25

- 1) No, because he says "*nice to meet you*".
- 2) They haven't been very good.
- 3) Because he hasn't been receiving the monthly reports.
- 4) They are sent by e-mail.
- 5) Because she thinks that the school might not have his e-mail address written down correctly.
- 6) She suspects Johnny has been getting in with the wrong crowd at school.
- 7) He says he has been moodier and less talkative.
- 8) He rarely gets to school on time and he always seems to be half asleep.
- 9) Because he has to leave home before his son does.
- 10) She says Johnny seems to be popular with the girls.

TEMA 10 – pág. 27

- 1) It's taking place in Silicon Valley, at the headquarters of Peach Technologies.
- 2) He is the visionary of the company.
- 3) Yes, he has. He knows his name is Ron and he says "*good to see you again*".
- 4) He says it looks like something out of a futuristic science fiction movie.
- 5) It's a room where designers and engineers meet to come up with new ideas for products.
- 6) No, he is responsible for the long-term creative vision for the company.
- 7) He says that they are part of an ongoing line of products where each new model makes improvements on the previous one.
- 8) Because the journalist says that Larry is never completely happy with the products they launch.



Soluciones

- 9) The search for excellence and perfection.
- 10) He says there's a danger you might rest on your laurels and become complacent.
- 11) When he retires.
- 12) Because he doesn't trust his wife with that information, let alone a journalist.

El TEMA 11 – pág. 29

- 1) No, we join the interview in the second part.
- 2) He would like to pay them to wake him up in the morning.
- 3) She suggests that he woke up with hundreds of people whose names he didn't know in the 1970s.
- 4) He says he can't remember anything.
- 5) Because he lived every man's dream life.
- 6) He says he had his soldier stationed in a lot of different barracks.
- 7) The tours of the US in the early 70s.
- 8) Because they are both always travelling.
- 9) It can affect your family life.
- 10) He says it's better to regret the things you've done than the things you haven't.
- 11) He would have been a better father and have spent more time with his kids.
- 12) He asked her out, but she said no because she was married.

TEMA 12 – pág. 31

- 1) Not much, he was thinking of taking it easy.
- 2) They're going to see a concert.
- 3) He says they're too expensive these days.
- 4) He thinks it's the name of the band, but it's the name of the pub.
- 5) He thinks it's a very brave thing to do in the present economic climate.
- 6) They're friends of Derek's, but she doesn't know what type of music they play.
- 7) They're not going to be a melodic folk band like Simon and Garfunkel.
- 8) Dull and boring.
- 9) He says that he's a complete musical snob who never stops criticising bands when he sees them in concert.
- 10) He's not sure. He tells Lucy that he's going to have to get back to her on it.

TEMA 13 – pág. 33

- 1) Because she told him to put his foot on it.
- 2) They're going to Janet and Alan's house.
- 3) Because they are already very late.
- 4) Because it could work out worse for them if they get stuck in traffic there.
- 5) No, he's very fussy about it.

- 6) No, she seemed to be OK with the situation.
- 7) He hopes they're not going to talk about their wedding plans.
- 8) She spoke about her wedding dress.
- 9) No, he says that deep down they are quite nice.
- 10) Because he says that John is quite a good laugh.

TEMA 14 – pág. 35

- 1) He asks her if she's read the script.
- 2) She loves it. She thinks it's amazing.
- 3) Because he has already bought the rights to the film.
- 4) He has started to phone some actors' agents.
- 5) A Hugh Grant type.
- 6) It's set in New York in the 1940s.
- 7) He's a hard-nosed, alcoholic union boss.
- 8) She's talking about a film called *A Very British Affair*.
- 9) He thinks it's awful.
- 10) Because she picked the studio's most successful films last year.
- 11) Because he's not flavour of the month any more, meaning he's not very popular any more.
- 12) *Koplowski's Vendetta*.
- 13) He says he will read Kathleen's script again if she reads his.

TEMA 15 – pág. 37

- 1) She thinks people feel less happy.
- 2) No, she thinks it should be the other way around; that people should be happier now.
- 3) War, fascism, poverty, hunger, nuclear destruction...
- 4) No. She thinks they might affect you if you lived in certain parts of Africa.
- 5) Their own physical survival.
- 6) That people are in serious danger of dying of hunger.
- 7) To analyze their lives.
- 8) It was a question of surviving, marrying young and reproducing.
- 9) They don't think about getting married and having kids.
- 10) She says that they're sold the idea that happiness can be attained via the acquisition of material goods.
- 11) Yes, she does. She thinks it's a wonderful thing.
- 12) According to her, we've gained in the material, but not in the spiritual.

TEMA 16 – pág. 39

- 1) "*Better the devil you know!*"
- 2) Two teams of celebrities and comedians compete to give the most interesting information on a given subject.

- 3) That depends on the guests.
- 4) The audience votes using a special electronic pad that has been installed in all the seats.
- 5) The teams have to guess which piece of information given by the other team has been made up.
- 6) No, he's not. He says the important thing is that the guests talk about all the facts and laugh at some of the more unbelievable ones.
- 7) No, there is a team of researchers who spend six months of the year trying to find the most interesting facts that they can.
- 8) Gossip programs, reality shows and talent contests.
- 9) To the best dinner party in the world.
- 10) Woody Allen, Leonardo Da Vinci, Groucho Marx and Lady Gaga.

TEMA 17 – pág. 41

- 1) She tells him to stop singing and to take his headphones off.
- 2) Because he should be listening to the safety announcements.
- 3) He says he never understands what they're saying and he knows exactly what they're going to say anyway.
- 4) Because he has been on lots of flights before.
- 5) He notices that there is no row 13.
- 6) She says they take row 13 out of planes for superstitious people.
- 7) To stop people from smoking in the toilets.
- 8) He's annoyed that they don't recline.
- 9) Because they're on a low-cost flight.
- 10) No, they've just got married and are on their honeymoon.
- 11) "Chillax" and "guesstimate".
- 12) He doesn't like flying.

TEMA 18 – pág. 43

- 1) There will be more than 30 people at the family get-together this year.
- 2) He hopes that they're not going to have another joke telling session at the end of the meal.
- 3) Yes, it's a family tradition.
- 4) He hates telling jokes or being told jokes.
- 5) She says he could sing.
- 6) Juggling, shadow puppetry or animal balloons for the kids.
- 7) Because feeling obliged to laugh makes him tense.
- 8) When somebody pays him a compliment or gives him a present.
- 9) She asks if he has ever thought about talking to someone professionally about his problem.

- 10) He always tells dirty jokes.
- 11) She says that he still hasn't got over splitting up with his ex-girlfriend, Katie.
- 12) Five months ago.

TEMA 19 – pág. 45

- 1) She wants him to ask the Australians to leave their flat.
- 2) They've been there for over two weeks.
- 3) He lives in Japan.
- 4) They gave him accommodation when he was travelling in Australia.
- 5) He told them to look Lisa and Callum up.
- 6) They said they would stay as long as Lisa and Callum were willing to put up with them.
- 7) For four or five days at the most.
- 8) They just put their feet up on the tables and watched her.
- 9) He said she looked cute with a mop in her hand.
- 10) No, he thinks it's funny.
- 11) To pay for a pizza they had when they went out the other night.

TEMA 20 – pág. 47

- 1) He says it sounds like it has a good soundtrack.
- 2) It's an area in New Orleans and it's famous for its marching jazz bands.
- 3) *The Wire*.
- 4) He thinks that David Simon claims to have invented wire; he doesn't understand that Stella is referring to a TV series called *The Wire*.
- 5) They have an obsession with watching TV series.
- 6) He's getting fed up of going out and hearing people, especially couples, telling him how they're watching some American series and that he has to watch it.
- 7) *Starsky and Hutch* and *The A-Team*.
- 8) She says that some have an epic, novel quality to them.
- 9) He'd rather read novels by Dostoyevsky and Balzac.
- 10) When it's time for his medicine and his nightly bath!
- 11) He says if it were the 1950s, then he'd be justified in giving Stella a good beating.

TEMA 21 – pág. 49

- 1) She's a woman.
- 2) Women and their famous multitasking abilities.
- 3) He says that she can't truly be appreciating the music.
- 4) He says that the music is just like the wallpaper that surrounds her.



Soluciones

- 5) It helps her to work by creating a pleasant, relaxing atmosphere.
- 6) Whether or not she can remember the names of the songs she has been listening to.
- 7) It requires 100% of their brainpower to be able to absorb a piece of information that someone has told them.
- 8) That women can't read maps.
- 9) She can cook, talk on the phone and watch her favourite soap opera at the same time.
- 10) She has to put a loudspeaker to his ear.
- 11) He says that most of the time he probably doesn't want to hear what she has to say.

TEMA 22 – pág. 51

- 1) The results of a test.
- 2) No, he says he's a realist.
- 3) Because that way life throws fewer surprises and disappointments at you.
- 4) He says we can't all be as upbeat and optimistic as Emma.
- 5) She says that they have a lot more fun along the way.
- 6) He confuses Scarlett O'Hara and Rhett Butler.
- 7) He said that pessimism is an excuse for not trying and a guarantee to personal failure.
- 8) He might not have got caught with his pants down.
- 9) Positive attitudes lead to longer lives and she says that every time you get angry you lose five minutes of your life.
- 10) She asks him to lend her a tenner.
- 11) Because Emma still owes him five pounds.
- 12) Because they never expect to get it back!

TEMA 23 – pág. 53

- 1) He wants to know what Dom is planning to do when he leaves university next year.
- 2) He doesn't like to plan things too much.
- 3) Going with the flow is not going to get him a job.
- 4) He's thinking of travelling for a year.
- 5) He says it will help him to see things from a different perspective and give him a clearer idea of what he wants to do when he comes back.
- 6) He says he needs to do stuff along the way and to acquire some abilities and skills.
- 7) He doesn't want to work for anyone. He's thinking of becoming an entrepreneur.
- 8) He represented the university in football, golf and he played lots of concerts with his band.
- 9) He worries that he's not setting his sights high enough and that he's a little too laidback.
- 10) All he's asking for is that his son set himself some goals and have an idea of what he wants his life to be like in five or ten years' time.

- 11) He says that one day he might find himself stranded on some godforsaken far away shore.

TEMA 24 – pág. 55

- 1) She wants to know what happened to Stuart.
- 2) He says that he's on the run in Macau.
- 3) He moved there about six years ago.
- 4) She says that she has two questions for him, but she ends up asking three questions.
- 5) He says that Macau is a province of China that used to be a Portuguese colony and that it's like a Portuguese version of Hong Kong. He thinks it was handed back to the Chinese in 1999.
- 6) It organises stag parties and stag holidays.
- 7) Because it is full of casinos and has an enormous gambling industry.
- 8) They love to gamble.
- 9) No, he just wants to make a lot of money there for a few years and then go back to England.
- 10) She wants to know if he organises hen parties as well.
- 11) He says they're not suitable unless Katrina wants to spend a lot of time gambling in casinos and being surrounded by beautiful oriental women.

TEMA 25 – pág. 57

- 1) He was excited about the fact that he'd got a missed call.
- 2) He sarcastically said that that called for a celebration.
- 3) He didn't know, but he figured something or someone must have kept her from ringing him back.
- 4) No, he couldn't. It said it was from an unknown number.
- 5) He didn't think it was a good thing. He said: "That doesn't look too good, mate".
- 6) He thought she might not want him to know it was her in order not to embarrass herself if he didn't pick up.
- 7) He decided to give her a ring.
- 8) No, he hadn't. It had all gone terribly wrong.
- 9) He said Brad wanted to keep him from getting heart-broken again.
- 10) He asked him to keep him posted.
- 11) No, he didn't.
- 12) He said he'd walk because he needed to keep fit.
- 13) He figured he'd keep warm.

TEMA 26 – pág. 59

- 1) Because he wants Andrew to know that he's running late.
- 2) It was his anniversary last night and he forgot to set his alarm clock, so he overslept. Then he

had some problems with the hot water this morning, because the boiler broke down.

- 3) He's at Sol.
- 4) The metro broke down, then he tried to take a cab, but there are road works everywhere, so he decided to walk and fell into a manhole and twisted his ankle.
- 5) He's running to work.
- 6) He estimates it'll take 35 minutes.
- 7) He's 47 minutes late.
- 8) He gets fired.
- 9) Because his wife is pregnant and with the recession he won't be able to find another job.
- 10) No, he doesn't.
- 11) He has to be escorted out of the building.
- 12) He tells him that it was all a joke, it was only an April Fool's prank.

TEMA 27 – pág. 61

- 1) She offered to help him with the coffees.
- 2) He wanted her to let him open the window.
- 3) The problem was that they were not allowed to open the windows.
- 4) He said that that seat was taken.
- 5) She wanted to tell him a secret.
- 6) She can't tell him any secrets because Eugene always lets the cat out of the bag.
- 7) She insisted on telling him about Pedro if things got more serious.
- 8) His advice was for her not to let herself get too involved too quickly.
- 9) She has learned her lessons from the past.
- 10) She lead him on.
- 11) He is allowed to give her advice.
- 12) The deal they made was to continue giving each other advice, no matter how many mistakes they made.
- 13) He suggested getting the bill and going back to the office.

TEMA 28 – pág. 63

- 1) She has found out that Gavin and Bea have broken up.
- 2) Because Bea posted a message on Gavin's Friendbook wall insulting him.
- 3) It means that Gavin was dishonest and unfaithful to her.
- 4) She compares it to a camel that's just eaten a bucket of rotten cabbage.
- 5) The Nobel Prize for literature.
- 6) Because she says that none of Gavin's friends think that the stuff Bea said was true.
- 7) The lying, cheating part.
- 8) She looked at his Internet search history on his phone.

- 9) All his messages and photos.
- 10) Because his girlfriend found out that he was cheating on her via his mobile and then publicly humiliates him via Friendbook.
- 11) Because that's how he met Bea and all those other women.
- 12) He says that they're no different from meeting someone in a bar or a club.
- 13) He says that she should try one of these Internet dating sites, as she might actually meet someone.

TEMA 29 – pág. 65

- 1) He missed last night's episode of *House*.
- 2) He missed it because he had to go out for dinner with his daughter and his soon-to-be son-in-law.
- 3) Because he doesn't know how to record on a DVD player and his wife threw out their old VHS recorder years ago.
- 4) They can record a whole series at the press of a button.
- 5) They come with cable TV or digital TV packages.
- 6) Because all you have to do to record a program is press the red button and the system does the rest for you.
- 7) You can press the pause button, go and do something and then come back and continue watching the game where you left it.
- 8) Because he thinks he will pause the program for everybody else watching.
- 9) She hasn't realised that Bertie said he was going to have a son-in-law soon.
- 10) He would rather she was getting married to Dr Gregory House.

TEMA 30 – pág. 67

- 1) He has just finished doing Clara's annual tax returns.
- 2) She has developed a good patient list by word of mouth.
- 3) She says that there must be a lot of stress out there.
- 4) Mateo.
- 5) He asks Clara how the house hunting is going.
- 6) They've asked for 60%.
- 7) Because both Clara and her husband have steady jobs with a good income.
- 8) Paco Lopez, the president of the Federal United Bank.
- 9) She thinks it might be a bit cheeky asking the president for that.
- 10) He asks for an appointment to see her about his bad back.
- 11) It's tight, but she thinks she will be able to fit Jon into one of her slots.



Soluciones

TEMA 31 – pág. 69

- 1) He asks her whether she fancies a cuppa.
- 2) No, she doesn't.
- 3) She tells him that he's not much of a gardener.
- 4) She wants to know whether he still owes Sam two months' worth of rent.
- 5) He thinks she holds a grudge against him.
- 6) No, she doesn't.
- 7) She says she just feels that people that abuse other people's kindness need to be told not everything in this world's only theirs to enjoy.
- 8) She dumped him.
- 9) It sounded like a hundred planes had landed on his backyard in the past few minutes.
- 10) No, he didn't.
- 11) He was being sarcastic when he said that was all he needed.

TEMA 32 – pág. 71

- 1) He wanted to know if that was the maternity ward.
- 2) Yes, he did. But he said he thought he'd never make it.
- 3) He'd had to wait for at least three and a half hours.
- 4) It meant that she'd be going into the delivery room.
- 5) They pace the floor.
- 6) **"I should hope not!"**, which translates as **'¡Más vale que no!'**.
- 7) No, she hadn't. It'd been as smooth as they come.
- 8) He thought the reason why his wife's name had come up on the screen three times was that she was having triplets.
- 9) He didn't expect a TV screen to break the news.
- 10) He had spiky blue hair and he was wearing leather pants and chains around his neck.
- 11) Because there would be three newborns in the house.

TEMA 33 – pág. 73

- 1) She has come to complain about the noise he was making last night.
- 2) She's referring to Jamie's music and the screams of his girlfriend.
- 3) She says she thought she was being killed.
- 4) Because her bedroom is directly below Jamie's.
- 5) She says she can hear the noise of him getting up to go to the bathroom in the middle of the night.
- 6) They still "have fun".
- 7) When The Beatles were still together.
- 8) They've agreed to call the police the next time Jamie has a noisy party.

- 9) He says she should move to the country or go back to the convent where she came from.
- 10) No, he says it's fine by him if she wants to call the police.

TEMA 34 – pág. 75

- 1) Because he burst their football.
- 2) But to go and annoy all the other kids.
- 3) He tells them to put their sweets and stickers away.
- 4) He mentions how well they are both looking.
- 5) He thinks he talks like a posh nerd.
- 6) He wants his sweets and stickers.
- 7) He will tell the teachers.
- 8) Because he's going to give Billie's sweets and stickers away to all the other kids.
- 9) He says he will get his dad on to him.
- 10) He says he's bigger than Charlie's dad and he knows karate.
- 11) Because the teachers are about to come over to them.

TEMA 35 – pág. 77

- 1) Because she had been reaching down to pick up her phone from the floor.
- 2) Jamie was on his way to see his aunt near Sheffield; Alison had moved to Sheffield recently.
- 3) A part-time job with a graphic design company.
- 4) They must've seen her blog.
- 5) Because it's a small company and should they lose one of their important clients, she might as well end up on the street.
- 6) For another year.
- 7) The plants and turtles in a train station, the main square and Sol.
- 8) He walked around the city, explored the different neighbourhoods and took in the unique buzz of the city.
- 9) In July, if she gets some time off.
- 10) Because he needs to get off at the next stop, as they should get to Sheffield soon.

TEMA 36 – pág. 79

- 1) Because it was the middle of the day.
- 2) She was worried the big cheese would see them.
- 3) It means to talk too much about something.
- 4) Because she needed to chill out and she's been under pressure lately.
- 5) She's been burning the candle at both ends.
- 6) Because Lauren is teething.
- 7) He thinks it's a dead-end job, that she should get out of it and do something she's passionate about.

- 8) They meet the big cheese.
- 9) She said she's been out for a business lunch with Apple.
- 10) No, she doesn't.

TEMA 37 – pág. 81

- 1) She thinks the amount they get is ridiculous.
- 2) **"You've hit the nail on the head."**
- 3) That they bring more value to society, but earn thousands of times less money.
- 4) Supply and demand.
- 5) A hobby, a passion and release from the day-to-day drudgery.
- 6) That only the top players make that kind of money and he asks her if multimillionaire actors and directors bring that much entertainment to the world.
- 7) That they contribute to the arts.
- 8) He says that she should come down from her ivory tower and rough it with the common people.
- 9) She asks, sarcastically, if a multimillionaire footballer is one of the common people.
- 10) She says that they find loopholes to dodge ('evitar') paying so much tax.
- 11) He asks if she would admit that he had a point if the tables were turned.
- 12) If Siobhán is up for seeing a football match, and if she'll complain about footballers again.

TEMA 38 – pág. 83

- 1) A technician is at the door.
- 2) He's coming to fix the washing machine.
- 3) It doesn't spin.
- 4) They come out soaking wet.
- 5) It's been broken for about a week.
- 6) Because he only bought it three months ago.
- 7) It's the DW Turbo 60.
- 8) Wooney played well in the derby last night.
- 9) He prefers chess.
- 10) He's been doing the job for almost ten years.
- 11) It's almost going to be summer.
- 12) He suggested sending it to the landlord.
- 13) He says that would be great.

TEMA 39 – pág. 85

- 1) For a coffee and a chat.
- 2) They've never met for coffee before.
- 3) She nearly cried when he said he didn't think he'd be able to meet.
- 4) She needs some urgent advice.
- 5) About James.
- 6) Because James and Matt are so close.
- 7) They're brothers.

- 8) He says that she's neurotic.
- 9) He doesn't plump up the pillows on the bed, he sets the table with mismatched cutlery, he doesn't alphabetize the books and he doesn't shine the taps.
- 10) To end the relationship immediately.
- 11) He thinks that Kate is completely neurotic and that James keeps her sane.
- 12) To ask James not to use the toilet the day she cleans it.

TEMA 40 – pág. 87

- 1) He asks him to slow down/put the brakes on.
- 2) They need to get off the highway by daybreak.
- 3) They need to get off the highway because they can't afford to be seen in daylight.
- 4) No, there's no going back once you've broken out.
- 5) They can hear choppers/helicopters above them.
- 6) Yes, they think the story has already broken.
- 7) The convict's ugly mugs/faces are plastered across every TV set in America.
- 8) He wants a cigarette break.
- 9) The break can last five minutes at most.
- 10) The convicts are headed to Dentonville.
- 11) Lurleen will break out the good whiskey.
- 12) They can hear sirens coming at breakneck speed.

TEMA 41 – pág. 89

- 1) According to Ronan, Emma looks glum.
- 2) Emma's worried about her brother, Francis.
- 3) No, it's not the first time Ronan has heard Emma talk about Francis.
- 4) Ronan says he shouldn't have had a go at Emma.
- 5) No, Emma didn't think Francis was happy.
- 6) Emma says that Francis moped about the house all day.
- 7) Francis has been on the dole for over two years.
- 8) Because it would be a change of scenery from the house.
- 9) Francis isn't the type of guy you lecture, according to Ronan.
- 10) Emma's brother got a job in the fish factory.
- 11) Emma's brother's main task at work is deshellng crab.
- 12) Emma's brother reeks of fish when he comes home from work.

TEMA 42 – pág. 91

- 1) He wanted to update his insurance details.
- 2) The problem was that he'd reached license renewals.
- 3) She wanted him to write down a phone number.
- 4) He begged her not to give him any phone numbers.



Soluciones

- 5) He'd been on the line for two hours.
- 6) She was not authorized to update his insurance information.
- 7) She ensured him that he wouldn't be on hold for long.
- 8) He had half a mind to write a polite little letter to the manager of the DVLO.
- 9) He said that she was the same woman.
- 10) She asked him why he'd rung back.
- 11) Her reason was that he wasn't supposed to have been transferred back to her.
- 12) His calls had been transferred more times than he cared to remember.
- 13) She recommended that he take a look on their website.

TEMA 43 – pág. 93

- 1) Lake Kitilian.
- 2) Going to a spa and getting full make-overs.
- 3) Breaking her nails.
- 4) The bait and hooks.
- 5) The wind.
- 6) To jerk the rod vertically and simultaneously reel it in.
- 7) 30 years ago.
- 8) Remove it, check the line for damage, re-bait the hook and cast the line again.
- 9) A bit of beginner's luck.
- 10) 16.
- 11) 0.
- 12) Because she's just been lucky and she's had the best teacher.
- 13) Everything.

TEMA 44 – pág. 95

- 1) She's had a break in.
- 2) She needs to replace her living room window.
- 3) IG 0937 6333 967P.
- 4) Clause 13.2 [c].
- 5) That crime-related insurance claims cannot be processed until reported to the police.
- 6) They will need the crime number.
- 7) Kate hasn't reported the incident because it wasn't a person that broke her window.
- 8) A pheasant.
- 9) It's August.
- 10) Kate's boyfriend found the pheasant in her bedroom.
- 11) Yes, she can. She has photos as proof of the incident.
- 12) He's going to refer the matter to his supervisor.

TEMA 45 – pág. 97

- 1) Neil has arrived at halftime.

- 2) Neil got caught up on the metro on his way to watching the match.
- 3) The teams are drawing, 1-1.
- 4) The two teams have been drawing since the opening minute of the match.
- 5) Lawrence is rooting for the visiting team.
- 6) Neil is rooting for the home team.
- 7) Neil has been rooting for his team since the beginning of the season.
- 8) Lawrence is going to feel very disappointed.
- 9) Neil thinks that matches that finish in draws are letdowns.
- 10) No, Neil doesn't think this match will end up a draw.
- 11) Lawrence thinks the visiting team will win.
- 12) Because they always win when they're drawn at halftime.
- 13) Neil thinks the home team will win.

TEMA 46 – pág. 99

- 1) She had a rough night.
- 2) She fell asleep about an hour after she got home.
- 3) He left when they started arguing.
- 4) He left because he didn't feel comfortable.
- 5) No, he didn't.
- 6) She hurt her knee.
- 7) They argued because Nick thinks Fiona has fallen in love with her boss.
- 8) He looks like he has fallen out of the ugly tree and hit every branch on the way down.
- 9) She says he is a nice guy, lovely and kind and always makes an effort with her.
- 10) No, he doesn't.
- 11) He suggests she gets her coffee and goes back to bed.
- 12) He suggests she go get her coffee and go back to bed.

TEMA 47 – pág. 101

- 1) She's not thrilled about the project any more because of Dan. Plus, Dan himself is going to do the opening speech.
- 2) Because Dan is so full of himself.
- 3) Because it's a huge event and Elaine is the event manager.
- 4) He told her how dare she tell him how to run his business, walked off and slammed the door.
- 5) She should either get on with it or start looking for another job.
- 6) The fact that the new boss is a spoiled kid who's only there because he inherited the company from his dad.
- 7) Ranting.
- 8) That Mark had opened up to her and told her that the whole team was fed up with Dan.

- 9) Because Elaine suddenly changed her mind completely and wanted to go to the opening ceremony.
- 10) She tells him not to ask questions and to get his mother's sleeping pills.
- 11) She's going to call Mark and the others to make some preparations.
- 12) That she might kill Dan with the sleeping pills at the opening ceremony.

TEMA 48 – pág. 103

- 1) Jane is Brian's girlfriend.
- 2) They're usually together.
- 3) She found out he was doing the dirty again.
- 4) She managed to bring up his email account and found loads of messages from him to other girls.
- 5) She set off the fire alarm in the building.
- 6) She told him everyone was heading out to the street and not to bother grabbing any clothes.
- 7) She locked him out of the building.
- 8) She called the police to report a barely-clothed weirdo screaming on the street.
- 9) They brought him in for questioning.
- 10) No, she isn't bringing charges against him.
- 11) Yes, she does. She thinks it's hilarious.
- 12) No, she doesn't. She sincerely doubts it.

TEMA 49 – pág. 105

- 1) He tells her to *"use her loaf"*.
- 2) *"Use your head"* or *"think about it"*.
- 3) It's a type of English accent.
- 4) The East End of London.
- 5) All over South East England.
- 6) Over 150 years old: they date back to the 1850s.
- 7) It's a slang that replaces words with words or phrases they rhyme with.
- 8) He was reading a book.
- 9) His mum bought him the book when she went to London for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations.
- 10) On the outskirts of North London.
- 11) Bread.
- 12) To talk.

TEMA 50 – pág. 107

- 1) He wants to know if Caroline has bought her new laptop yet.
- 2) No, she bought it on the weekend.
- 3) Yes, she does.
- 4) *"The most user friendly laptop on the market"*.
- 5) No, she hasn't. She's been using it for an hour here and an hour there.
- 6) When she starts to do her university work.
- 7) It took him from Christmas to Easter.
- 8) No, it's very light.

- 9) Because she thought there is no use in paying for something that she wasn't going to use.
- 10) She said she didn't need one because the keyboard already has one.
- 11) Because of his chubby fingers.

TEMA 51 – pág. 109

- 1) He tells John to get his skates on.
- 2) He says *"keep your hair on!"*.
- 3) To get a booking at a swanky bar.
- 4) A sorry excuse for a party.
- 5) An attractive girl at the bar throws him a flirty look.
- 6) He asks Ben if he's going to make a move now or make a move later.
- 7) He says he's going to do a little catching up with him.
- 8) She talks to him about existentialism and hyper reality.
- 9) Because he thinks Ben used to talk about hyper reality when he was studying.
- 10) He used to talk about hyperrealism.
- 11) Hyper reality is a philosophical theory and hyperrealism is an artistic movement.
- 12) His charm.

TEMA 52 – pág. 111

- 1) All he seems to say these days is "What if...?".
- 2) Yes, she has spoken to him a few times.
- 3) No, she thinks he's going to be no trouble at all.
- 4) They were told they have to provide three square meals a day.
- 5) No, he thinks Pierre will eat them out of house and home.
- 6) Harry eats six meals a day: breakfast, brunch, lunch, dinner, supper and a midnight snack.
- 7) Kirsty thinks Harry will eat them out of house and home.
- 8) Kirsty thinks all they have to do for him is feed him, make him feel welcome and take him out from time to time.
- 9) Harry thinks he'll have less free time.
- 10) He still expects to be able to play a round of golf once a week.
- 11) She thinks he's nervous because he doesn't know what to expect and because he thinks it'll be awkward.
- 12) Yes, she thinks they'll probably get on like a house on fire.

TEMA 53 – pág. 113

- 1) A short back and sides.
- 2) His receding hairline.
- 3) A boxing match.



Soluciones

- 4) Lex.
- 5) How hard Lex was hitting his opponent in the final stages.
- 6) To a bulldog.
- 7) Tilt it forward.
- 8) Proud to be British.
- 9) There was a left hook.
- 10) Knock the opponent out for six.
- 11) It was dull.
- 12) Mike's sideburns.
- 13) Yes, but he might be out of his depth against the current champion.
- 14) Mike's wife (the Mrs.).
- 15) Three pounds.

TEMA 54 – pág. 115

- 1) He's asking her to sit down for a second.
- 2) He can't stand him.
- 3) He wants to tell him to get lost.
- 4) He speaks highly of him.
- 5) She just sat there and took it.
- 6) The last thing she needs is one of her best friends planting seeds of doubt in her head.
- 7) He can't stand Craig's company anymore.
- 8) They're always together because Craig doesn't like Amanda going out without other people.
- 9) He tries to make her believe that she's so lucky to be with him.
- 10) She promises him that she's standing up for herself when he's rude.
- 11) He hopes that she really is standing up for herself.
- 12) There have been occasions in which he's put her down and she's just sat there without saying a thing.
- 13) It's not in her nature to argue.

TEMA 55 – pág. 117

- 1) Courtney.
- 2) It's a cracking party.
- 3) To help Tim with the champagne.
- 4) His shirt.
- 5) Like silk.
- 6) His brother's friend's auntie's neighbor.
- 7) That there are so many people from all over the place.
- 8) Courtney.
- 9) That she wouldn't have come if Courtney hadn't twisted her arm.
- 10) Until the end of the party.
- 11) He asks if Courtney is seeing anyone at the moment.
- 12) Tim
- 13) That he should've guessed; she's too pretty to be single.
- 14) She says there are more fish in the sea.

TEMA 56 – pág. 119

- 1) They're all specializing in French food.
- 2) He couldn't think of anything worse than traipsing through all the crowds in markets.
- 3) They're pushed for time because they're meeting their friends Monica and Andy for lunch.
- 4) It's pulling her towards the stall like a magnet.
- 5) They're a bit pushed for money.
- 6) The fact that some guys have just walked up and pushed in has just upset him.
- 7) He has half a mind to pull them to one side.
- 8) He doesn't want to push his luck.
- 9) He doesn't want to push his luck because they're twice his size and they could floor him easily.
- 10) She asked him what he was pulling his sleeves up for.
- 11) They just came along and pushed in.
- 12) He's tired of being pushed around and walked all over.
- 13) She can't handle all the looks they're getting from everyone in the market.

TEMA 57 – pág. 121

- 1) He's hoping to run into a girl called Maria whose house he thinks is around there.
- 2) He thinks it's a little creepy.
- 3) Yes, he knows her.
- 4) They've been hanging out with each other for a couple of weeks.
- 5) Yes, he does. He thinks she might be the one.
- 6) He doesn't call her because the last time they met, he screwed up.
- 7) He told her that he liked hanging out with her because she reminds him of his ex.
- 8) Everyone knows that he hates it when kids like them hang around his shop.
- 9) He's reported kids for loitering.
- 10) To loiter means to hang around doing nothing.
- 11) No, he doesn't.
- 12) He has to check out a few of Maria's other hangouts.

TEMA 58 – pág. 123

- 1) Because there's never a day when he doesn't come home from work with some oil stain or grease mark on his clothes.
- 2) She's thrown her husband Frank out.
- 3) The whole building heard them screaming at each other on Thursday night.
- 4) They fought because Frank's been having it off with Gladys in 1A.
- 5) Mabel's been out at Bingo while Frank's been having it off with Gladys.
- 6) No, she doesn't. She thinks that Mabel should wash her hands of him.

- 7) Francis in 5A told Mavis that Gladys's house is filthy.
- 8) They were grimy.
- 9) Gladys looks like she would be house-proud to Bev.
- 10) Bev thought that Gladys was house-proud because she's always immaculately dressed.
- 11) You can't trust a word Francis says because she's always got a story about someone.
- 12) She has to go because Willy'll be looking for his dinner soon.

TEMA 59 – pág. 125

- 1) He got really angry and he lost it.
- 2) Because they've had worse quarters in the past and only had a slap on the wrist.
- 3) That Murtagh is suing for unfair dismissal.
- 4) An out-of-court settlement with Murtagh.
- 5) Shaking up the sales force.
- 6) Laying off employees.
- 7) She thinks it would be counterproductive, possibly reducing morale.
- 8) That some of them have been slacking off.
- 9) People from the finance department.
- 10) Driving down overheads.
- 11) Expanding into Singapore and Taiwan.
- 12) Positive, as long as she doesn't have to oversee it.

TEMA 60 – pág. 127

- 1) In the boss' office.
- 2) Why Michelle didn't attend the meeting.
- 3) Because she didn't know that there was one.
- 4) HR organized the meeting and it was about company objectives.
- 5) The email was sent last Friday.
- 6) It was sent to all the employees, including Michelle.
- 7) The boss expects Michelle to check her emails regularly and to attend all departmental meetings.
- 8) No.
- 9) The boss will seriously consider taking disciplinary action.
- 10) Because she's given it her all since day one and she's been a key employee in the company.
- 11) It might be due to a fault with her inbox.
- 12) Because everybody else managed to attend the meeting.
- 13) They show up to all meetings.
- 14) The boss wants Michelle to show what she's made of.

TEMA 61 – pág. 129

- 1) He's glad because Rachel dragged him to the exhibition in the end.

- 2) She tells him not to touch the old vases.
- 3) They're so small that you need to touch them in order to examine them properly.
- 4) They're displayed behind a velvet rope.
- 5) All the artifacts would be in a glass case if everyone were like Kevin.
- 6) He asks her why she's being so touchy.
- 7) She tells him to put a vase down or else the security guard will chuck them out.
- 8) It must be thousands of years old.
- 9) She advises him not to touch it.
- 10) Because it looks like that particular artifact is protected by laser beams.
- 11) Then the alarm goes off.
- 12) She tells him to pull himself together.
- 13) She says that they'll just have to face the music.

TEMA 62 – pág. 131

- 1) It's been two years.
- 2) He's been working on his new album.
- 3) Because they were obsessed with album sales and money.
- 4) The interviewer loves it.
- 5) The interviewer says it's very moving and very different from his previous album.
- 6) The breakdown of Kris's marriage.
- 7) The consumerism of modern life.
- 8) The interviewer thinks the album is dark.
- 9) He thinks it's also quite positive.
- 10) The development of new means of communication.
- 11) He gives the example of mobile phones and text messages.
- 12) Luv 4 Sale.

TEMA 63 – pág. 133

- 1) He's gone AWOL.
- 2) A couple of days ago.
- 3) She thought he was on leave.
- 4) Having an affair with one of the IT girls.
- 5) Because he fell out with Sarah.
- 6) Because she's always had a thing for him.
- 7) He doesn't want Jim to think he's been talking about him behind his back.
- 8) Pot calling the kettle black.
- 9) Because she was planning to leave him for someone else.
- 10) Her discretion.
- 11) In case the boss catches her.

TEMA 64 – pág. 135

- 1) The silent treatment.
- 2) No, he doesn't.
- 3) Yes, he is.



Soluciones

- 4) With Kelly.
- 5) They poked each other.
- 6) Two.
- 7) Five years.
- 8) He thought she was just saying hi.
- 9) He poked Sue's sister.
- 10) That she hoped he'd had a nice holiday.
- 11) That it was a work night out and there were other people in the same photo.
- 12) She admits that she's overreacting.
- 13) He would have changed his status to "it's complicated".
- 14) She wants him to stop poking Kelly and her sister.

TEMA 65 – pág. 137

- 1) Pay for some chips and play.
- 2) Taking all the others' money.
- 3) *"Enough chit-chat."*
- 4) Yes.
- 5) One hundred.
- 6) He folds (*'se retira'*).
- 7) He raises the bet an additional hundred.
- 8) He thinks Jack's bluffing.
- 9) A full house.
- 10) A straight flush.
- 11) He wants to call it a day.
- 12) Tod says that he was on a roll earlier.

TEMA 66 – pág. 139

- 1) She's had to pick her up from the police station.
- 2) He wants to know if anything happened to her.
- 3) She had been caught stealing.
- 4) They grounded her for a month.
- 5) They said that if it ever happened again, she'd have to go to court.
- 6) They've been best friends for years.
- 7) He suggests they send her to summer camp.
- 8) So that she learns discipline.
- 9) She just scowled.
- 10) She suggests they talk about it more.
- 11) She'll learn discipline and responsibility.
- 12) He asks her if she happens to be near the shopping centre.
- 13) So that she can pick up some summer camp brochures since this summer camp thing is going to happen!

TEMA 67 – pág. 141

- 1) It just won't fit through the doorframe.
- 2) He then suggests that they remove the doorframe and try again.
- 3) It wouldn't work because the doorframe's tiny.
- 4) She then asks herself why Aunt Lisa left her the grand piano in her will.

- 5) He suggests they remove the legs and screw them back on in the living room.
- 6) The piano's huge and it's about 150 years old.
- 7) You'd have to squeeze past it every time you wanted to leave the house.
- 8) It'll fit on the roof terrace.
- 9) They'd need a crane and someone who knows how to operate them to lift it on to the roof for them.
- 10) She seems to love that idea.
- 11) No, he was only joking.
- 12) They can have parties on the roof terrace and Stacey can play the piano for the guests.
- 13) It's a family heirloom and Aunt Lisa would turn in her grave.

TEMA 68 – pág. 143

- 1) She asked him if he slept well.
- 2) Because he could hear the neighbours arguing.
- 3) They were arguing because Johnny didn't pay the gas bill.
- 4) Before tomorrow.
- 5) Next week.
- 6) Because she said you can't use a different card than the one you used to book them.
- 7) He said he would be missing his English breakfast.
- 8) For nearly six months.
- 9) He hasn't paid for them because he won them.
- 10) He says he is going to see if Johnny is OK.

TEMA 69 – pág. 145

- 1) No.
- 2) Next to the blender.
- 3) He likes the beat.
- 4) He thinks the neighbours will call the police.
- 5) Because the old couple that lives next to him rang the police last time he had a party.
- 6) A round of mojitos.
- 7) No.
- 8) That they paint their nails as well.
- 9) When the girls will arrive.
- 10) He goes red.
- 11) To give him a break.
- 12) Trying to chat girls up by talking about the bluetooth functions in his car.

TEMA 70 – pág. 147

- 1) On a dating site.
- 2) She says it's one of those sites where they fix you up with the first one that comes along.
- 3) The bluetooth functions in his car.
- 4) Yes, she does. She says: "Soo cute!" afterwards.
- 5) Her exact words are: "So how many of us will there be at dinner?"

- 6) She says she'd better fix her hair.
- 7) It's broken beyond repair.
- 8) He's been running a fever for the past few days.
- 9) Yes, he is. Jen says he's on the mend now.
- 10) She offered to fix her face.
- 11) Her advanced night repair synchronized complex.
- 12) She doesn't want to build up her expectations and be disappointed later.

TEMA 71 – pág. 149

- 1) No.
- 2) She left because she didn't get along with the new manager.
- 3) She said it's turning out to be more difficult than she thought.
- 4) He said he applied for at least five a day.
- 5) He threw himself into studying.
- 6) She said he never agrees with her on creative issues and he's always throwing his weight around the office.
- 7) He's in the middle of launching a new project.
- 8) He said they threw him to the lions.
- 9) It's only a stone's throw away from the beach.
- 10) He's sure because she has a lot of experience.

TEMA 72 – pág. 151

- 1) Pretty groggy.
- 2) A sleeping bag and a blanket.
- 3) Because she slept through the storm.
- 4) He says that she wasn't so eager to get up.
- 5) At a reasonable time.
- 6) Get some shut-eye.
- 7) He's snoozing.
- 8) Because he has a splitting headache.
- 9) That he overdid it last night.
- 10) Lie in at a festival.
- 11) The headliners.
- 12) Because he wants to see Bruce Springsteen and the others don't.

TEMA 73 – pág. 153

- 1) She wants to know if Mark would rather know what people actually think at all times or if he'd rather have them tell him what he wants to hear.
- 2) He thinks he might be in trouble.
- 3) He thinks she got them from a psychological test in one of her magazines.
- 4) She says she thinks he is an honest, straightforward, reliable person.
- 5) She also admits she thinks he's an incredibly simple person.
- 6) No, he didn't. You can tell because he said that by no means was he planning to take her words the wrong way.

- 7) He wants to watch a football match, and he calls it "the footie".
- 8) He suggests that she think of it as a means of making a living for thousands of people across the globe.
- 9) She thinks they make a hell of a living, a very good one.
- 10) He says she should thank her lucky stars that he never considered getting into that line of work.
- 11) No, she doesn't.
- 12) She tells him to stop moaning.

TEMA 74 – pág. 155

- 1) About bugging Wayne to go to dance class for so long.
- 2) Fun and romantic.
- 3) 1, 2, 3 and slide.
- 4) He stands on Jessica's toe.
- 5) He says he has two left feet.
- 6) He says his hip got stuck on three.
- 7) Splendid dancing so far.
- 8) The next step.
- 9) 1, 2, 3, slide, a fast spin on your tip toes, then jump, lift your partner and then both of you into the splits.
- 10) That it looks very professional.
- 11) He wants them to continue practicing the basic step.
- 12) Keep his arms up straight and his toes pointed.
- 13) She thinks he should go home.
- 14) She thinks she can dance with the dance instructor for the rest of the class.

TEMA 75 – pág. 157

- 1) Maths.
- 2) He's better at geography.
- 3) She has eight.
- 4) She said he did the same as her in science.
- 5) He said he did it because he had a lot on his mind and didn't have time to study.
- 6) Because she says it doesn't even matter.
- 7) She needs help with a few equations.
- 8) He says they studied it for three months.
- 9) He is in shock because Tara doesn't remember the equation.
- 10) He finishes at 5 p.m.
- 11) He says she needs to bring her notes and her mind.

TEMA 76 – pág. 159

- 1) Physiotherapist.
- 2) A torn ligament.
- 3) Running marathons.
- 4) By putting his feet up and watching the telly.



Soluciones

- 5) A dubbed, black and white film.
- 6) That he's washing his hair.
- 7) Ooh! The cat has claws!
- 8) To go to a couple of pubs.
- 9) Yes, he says to play it by ear.
- 10) Not very.
- 11) Yes.
- 12) To sit through the film.

TEMA 77 – pág. 161

- 1) She's about to go to the bar to buy another round of drinks.
- 2) He wants another pint and a packet of crisps.
- 3) Salt and vinegar.
- 4) A foul is committed.
- 5) To award a yellow card and a penalty kick.
- 6) Adams has been given two yellow cards.
- 7) It could carry Arsenal to victory in this cup final.
- 8) It's 2-1 to Arsenal.
- 9) Because he was cheating on her.
- 10) He was cheating on Ruth with someone from work.
- 11) Because Ruth was cheating on her boyfriend.
- 12) Ruth was cheating on her boyfriend with someone from the gym.

TEMA 78 – pág. 163

- 1) A speed-dating event.
- 2) Because they're past their prime.
- 3) Ethel's girdle and Gladys' slip.
- 4) *"A study in beauty."*
- 5) Over a hundred and twenty years old.
- 6) She quotes the studies that show that women over forty are more likely to get hit by lightning than get married.
- 7) Hers! The warm-hearted grandma type.
- 8) She worries about what to talk to them about.
- 9) She recommends Gladys talk to them about their grandchildren, their tax returns or their hip replacements. Even what they studied!
- 10) She goes without Gladys.

TEMA 79 – pág. 165

- 1) A new buffet place down the road
- 2) About the elephant in the room.
- 3) Into an argument.
- 4) He says they can have a decent conversation if Josie restrains herself from picking at everything he says.
- 5) He says that when she's hungry she always over faces herself and then picks at her food.
- 6) He agreed because he knew she would think he was immature if he didn't go.
- 7) Josie.

- 8) Because she wants to tell him the truth.
- 9) Sam's brother Ian.
- 10) He wants her to pick her stuff up so they never have to see each other again.

TEMA 80 – pág. 167

- 1) It's Margaret's birthday.
- 2) She wants to get dressed.
- 3) Her dressing gown.
- 4) Under the bed.
- 5) Two days.
- 6) Five.
- 7) Yes, she says she is thrilled.
- 8) Pancakes.
- 9) She says the heels are wearing down.
- 10) At least three.

TEMA 81 – pág. 169

- 1) Whether she's going to bring up absenteeism in the meeting with Andrea.
- 2) Because André raised the question with Andrea yesterday.
- 3) He says that the more people that mention it the better.
- 4) She says she'll jot it down.
- 5) To talk to him about a problem with his reporting system.
- 6) The newbie.
- 7) Not bad, but lacking a sense of urgency.
- 8) To put the fear of God into her.
- 9) To give her a chance to settle in a bit more.
- 10) So they can shoot over to HJX to meet with the new head of sales.
- 11) That he's sleazy.
- 12) That he'll fit in well at HJX.

TEMA 82 – pág. 171

- 1) He feels like it isn't fulfilling anymore.
- 2) Phil lives in Philadelphia and Felicity lives in the Philippines.
- 3) Phil wants to break up with her.
- 4) Because Phil has been with someone else.
- 5) Because Phil wants to break the news to Felicity face to face.
- 6) Felicity compares the news with a terrible film.
- 7) Yes, Phil thinks she will.
- 8) She compares Phil to a pasty.
- 9) Felicity wants to know Phil's new girlfriend's name.
- 10) She wants to know her name because she wants to curse it every night before she goes to bed.
- 11) Phil's new girlfriend's name is Filippa Filmore.
- 12) Felicity knows Filippa because Filippa studied philology at their university.

- 13) Felicity tells Phil that Filippa is married with kids.

TEMA 83 – pág. 173

- 1) She wants to talk to him about the row of evergreens that he planted and the end of his garden.
- 2) The trees have grown so tall and so quickly, and they've become a bit of an eyesore.
- 3) They block the sun and lower the temperature of her swimming pool.
- 4) Some of us are dealing with real problems.
- 5) She wanted to discuss these issues with him amicably.
- 6) He's not making that an easy task for her by any means.
- 7) They're an ugly dark green.
- 8) The trees are blocking all the sunrays.
- 9) The reason he gave for planting those trees was to keep nosy people out.
- 10) The one thing she loved the most was the view from the balcony and the porch.
- 11) No, she has no interest whatsoever in his estate (or in his private life for that matter).
- 12) She just wants him to consider his neighbours.
- 13) The trees are staying and that's that.

TEMA 84 – pág. 175

- 1) She notices that he has put on weight since the last time she saw him.
- 2) She is his auntie.
- 3) She says that it is puppy fat and he'll grow out of it.
- 4) She says that they would go out together every weekend and pass by Tyrone's dad's house to see if he was at home.
- 5) She saw him smoking with his friends outside Ol' Sam's store on the corner of the block.
- 6) He offered to quit smoking.
- 7) *"Real bossy".*
- 8) She's called Jacqueline.
- 9) He wants to stay outside with Tinisha.
- 10) She wants to finish cleaning the porch.

TEMA 85 – pág. 177

- 1) He says it's just another commercialised celebration.
- 2) He says he doesn't need to spend money on Valentine's Day to prove that he loves someone.
- 3) He thinks they're going to Jennifer's parents'.
- 4) She says they are going to the shops.
- 5) She says that he sounds like his dad.
- 6) She says you don't have to spend a fortune to show someone you love them.

- 7) She says he will be at a conference.
- 8) Her surprise was a meal.
- 9) She says Phil made it crystal clear that he hated it and he took all the fun and romance out of it.
- 10) Yes.

TEMA 86 – pág. 179

- 1) She's so glad because she and Shannon are spending more time together.
- 2) You can barely see Shannon's varicose veins thanks to her tights.
- 3) You can save \$20 if you buy three pairs.
- 4) She could hide the blotches on her legs from her fake tan incident.
- 5) She's always full of good ideas, according to Janice.
- 6) It's so good because it hides Shannon's acne scars so well.
- 7) She got it from a specialist shop on 5th.
- 8) She was thinking of Janice when she bought it.
- 9) She has finally found a concealer that actually hides all her acne scars.
- 10) She's so happy because Shannon can look at herself in the mirror and not be tortured by her acne scars anymore.
- 11) The fact that she's turning 40 next month is playing on her mind.
- 12) She's 40 next year.
- 13) They must meet up more often.

TEMA 87 – pág. 181

- 1) She likes his great hair, his 5 o'clock shadow, his skin tone and his height.
- 2) Because she's too shy.
- 3) Life's too short to be shy about these things.
- 4) He then tells her to walk up to him and to spark up a conversation.
- 5) He says it's a walk in the park as long as you have enough tricks up your sleeve.
- 6) He's tinkering with his mobile.
- 7) She thinks she needs some Dutch courage.
- 8) He tells her to bite the bullet.
- 9) The guy cuts into the conversation and says that he couldn't agree more with Hugh.
- 10) He's a native English speaker from Oregon.
- 11) He's Portuguese.
- 12) He guesses she's from the East Coast (USA).
- 13) She then realizes that the guy could hear them both talking.

TEMA 88 – pág. 183

- 1) His current account.
- 2) All queries, no matter what they relate to.
- 3) He's called countless times.



Soluciones

- 4) Because he's put on hold for ten minutes and then he just gives up.
- 5) On the 30th of the month.
- 6) €30.99.
- 7) It's 2568687414465.
- 8) He suggests he should use the courtesy phone to call the customer service line.
- 9) Behind the ATM.
- 10) People running the banks like the bank clerk.

TEMA 89 – pág. 185

- 1) Mammy, Mummy and Mommy. (1st used in Ireland, 2nd used in Britain, 3rd used in the U.S)
- 2) 11811 and 11812.
- 3) He should think of his family.
- 4) Philomena and Dexter.
- 5) Her first prom.
- 6) Through a pane of protective glass once a month.
- 7) Making an honest living.
- 8) He wants to bring home the bacon.
- 9) His real name is Dominic.
- 10) They're brothers.

TEMA 90 – pág. 187

- 1) She wants to know what he has learnt in his cooking classes.
- 2) A few weeks.
- 3) Not to put pressure on himself to impress people.
- 4) Cheese on toast.
- 5) Lasagne.
- 6) When she was a teenager.
- 7) A crème brûlée.
- 8) Fresh pasta.
- 9) It's no good learning how to make foreign dishes if you can't cook local ones.
- 10) Good cooks are very rare.

TEMA 91 – pág. 189

- 1) No.
- 2) Damian.
- 3) The 3rd floor.
- 4) There are reports that they need to fill in.
- 5) No.
- 6) At about 7 a.m.
- 7) He told them he would call the police.
- 8) Yes.
- 9) Dealing with customer complaints.
- 10) The following week.
- 11) She's going to handle the reports.

TEMA 92 – pág. 191

- 1) She hopes that the person isn't really dead, but has just passed out.

- 2) He feels unwell; he complains of feeling dizzy.
- 3) He says he has kicked the bucket, that he is dead as a doorknob, and that he has gone to meet with his maker.
- 4) She says that they get the picture and then comments sarcastically that he has a way with words.
- 5) To keep your wits about you.
- 6) That the victim has suffered trauma and been hit in the head with a blunt object.
- 7) He faints, or as the Colonel says he has conked out/he is out cold.
- 8) To bring round.
- 9) That they won't have any dinner.
- 10) He tells her not to get her knickers in a twist.
- 11) Mrs White, in the kitchen, with the lead piping.
- 12) Under Mrs White's chef's hat.

TEMA 93 – pág. 193

- 1) Four years.
- 2) Because she wants to know if she'll live happily ever after with this guy.
- 3) Because he comes home late, he gets texts in the middle of the night and he's started to smell of perfume.
- 4) She holds her hands.
- 5) Her hands are sweating.
- 6) She thinks that her worries are run-of-the-mill.
- 7) Because she wants to know if Polly can see him in her future regardless of what he's done.
- 8) He's a small, dark man with a beard and hairy arms.
- 9) He's tall with blond hair and abnormally large teeth.
- 10) She doesn't want to spend her time waxing his hands.
- 11) Yes, she recommends that Nancy rid herself of him.
- 12) No, he doesn't figure in her future anyway.

TEMA 94 – pág. 195

- 1) On their doorstep.
- 2) Because he was wearing headphones.
- 3) It's a write-off.
- 4) The front door.
- 5) At least two grand.
- 6) A bit of disinfectant.
- 7) Because he would have the legs walked off himself if not.
- 8) Because it's going to rain in the evening.
- 9) She suggests she cut the lawn for her dad with the small lawnmower.
- 10) Because she also had a hand in the accident.
- 11) Because Michael has passed out.

TEMA 95 – pág. 197

- 1) New York.
- 2) She assumes she's working as an actress.
- 3) A cleaner's job.
- 4) Her boyfriend is a director of a musical.
- 5) Because his classmates cheated in their exams.
- 6) Because her son helped them whilst they were giving lectures, nudging them in the right direction.
- 7) No, she doesn't.
- 8) "I'm sure they will be very sad to see the back of him".
- 9) He is too bright for any of the available graduate jobs.
- 10) He's currently working as a waiter.
- 11) He was headhunted for a new job.
- 12) She has to do some "perishable replacement" or food shopping.

TEMA 96 – pág. 199

- 1) She says it's nearly ten o'clock.
- 2) He says that his boss told him he deserved a break.
- 3) On Monday.
- 4) She says the baby is on the way.
- 5) He wants to drink a coffee.
- 6) She's bought a puppy.
- 7) She says they can't have a puppy running around the house at the same time as a newborn baby.
- 8) He said she should avoid shouting up because it could raise her blood pressure.
- 9) He says the office is like a jungle at the moment.
- 10) She found a P45.

TEMA 97 – pág. 201

- 1) If the plants have been watered or not.
- 2) If the door has been locked or not.
- 3) Because of the stench they could find in the fridge when they get back if Gerry didn't throw the milk out.
- 4) Next to the cat litter.
- 5) It jumped out of a sixth-storey window and survived.
- 6) Savory gravy and tasty treats.
- 7) More water than you could shake a stick at.
- 8) Her hair straighteners.
- 9) No offence, but you're getting a bit hysterical.
- 10) In his back pocket.
- 11) That the passports aren't in his back pocket.

TEMA 98 – pág. 203

- 1) It was interesting to say the least.
- 2) She says she was haughty and aloof.
- 3) He gave her a hug and a kiss on the cheek.
- 4) Stretching out her hand as if she were royalty.
- 5) She says it could be shyness.
- 6) She kept looking Martha up and down.
- 7) She suspects he'd been given a script of questions to ask.
- 8) Asking Jean how many men she'd met before meeting Frank.
- 9) She says he's spineless.
- 10) He said that he wouldn't let anybody come between them.

TEMA 99 – pág. 205

- 1) She said she wasn't expecting to bump into anyone at that time in the morning.
- 2) She says it's stuffy and she always gets stuck under some guy's smelly armpit.
- 3) No, they are beating the rush hour by commuting earlier.
- 4) She can't get through.
- 5) That she lost her necklace.
- 6) That she had lent Clara some shoes and she asks for them back.
- 7) She wants the cream ones back. She says Clara can keep the other gold shoes as they never fitted her very well.
- 8) Hitchhiking round South America and doing a rally race to Mongolia.
- 9) She says she has big bags every morning when she wakes up and that no amount of concealer does the trick as nothing covers them up.
- 10) She denies it and says she had the same one.
- 11) She distinctly remembers Clara borrowing it at Sandra's wedding when she was cold.
- 12) Because the scarf went well with the shoes Clara was wearing which were Michelle's shoes!
- 13) Her missing necklace.

TEMA 100 – pág. 207

- 1) She is very excited.
- 2) No, she is struggling with her decision.
- 3) That the contestants may not be able to handle the constant criticism by the media.
- 4) He slept on it.
- 5) A recording deal with Rex Records.
- 6) Unwanted media attention and being manipulated by the media.
- 7) The Spiced Girls are dull and can't sing and that Two Directions care more about their appearance than singing.
- 8) Two Directions.



Soluciones

- 9) She liked their clothes.
- 10) He means "no way" or "are you serious?".
- 11) No, she doesn't.
- 12) She quits.
- 13) No, he doesn't care because he says that it doesn't matter how tired the contestants are, they will be forced to record a single in time for the audience to buy it the following week.

TEMA 101 – pág. 209

- 1) She has gossip for Toby.
- 2) She met her ex boyfriend Jason.
- 3) He thinks it would have been awkward.
- 4) She had forgotten how funny he is.
- 5) He prefers Jason.
- 6) He prefers Jason because he is funny and has a lot more going for him than Brad.
- 7) He reminds her that Jason dumped her in the supermarket car park.
- 8) He was a little put out.
- 9) A fight broke out between Brad and Jason.
- 10) She didn't break up the fight because it was too late; Brad was punching Jason and Jason was kicking Brad.
- 11) He is concerned that Brad's nose is OK.
- 12) He accuses them of acting like love-struck teenagers.
- 13) Chris is Carly's ex boyfriend from a year ago.
- 14) Chris' new car convinced her to leave the party with him.

TEMA 102 – pág. 211

- 1) Because of his lovely, bouncy curls and big grin.
- 2) "He's the apple of my eye".
- 3) Cute, good, sweet and gorgeous.
- 4) Charlie, her eldest daughter's youngest child.
- 5) He got the best in his class in English.
- 6) She says she doesn't talk about him in her sleep.
- 7) For the past hour and a quarter.
- 8) She tries to say it's a joke.
- 9) Because there's a vein throbbing in her neck and the frown.
- 10) She says she's stirring.
- 11) She's fed up with the conversation, sick of talking about grandchildren and sick and tired of Ann.

TEMA 103 – pág. 213

- 1) As a total write-off.
- 2) Because she can't work anything in her new house. She can't work the washing machine, the garage door or even the lights.
- 3) He thinks the problem is Katie doesn't listen when he's explaining things.

- 4) No, she says he is winding her up and that she can't stand it when he talks down to her.
- 5) It started closing on her.
- 6) That the next time, Katie should wait seven seconds between pressing the button on her car keys and entering the garage.
- 7) Not well, she says she is losing patience and at her wits' end.
- 8) A glass of wine.
- 9) Yes, she says to make sure her glass is large.
- 10) The door won't open and he requires the instruction manual.
- 11) That she is going to the pub and that Craig should call her when he finally manages to open the fridge door.

TEMA 104 – pág. 215

- 1) He orders a rare steak and salad, without onion rings.
- 2) She orders a well-done steak with chips, onion rings and a side of salad.
- 3) She orders bread for the table.
- 4) Emma accuses Neil of calling her fat because he laughed at how much she was ordering.
- 5) She accuses him of rolling his eyes when she ordered an ice cream.
- 6) She thinks he suggested it so she would exercise more.
- 7) He made the suggestion so they could spend more time together.
- 8) Emma asked Neil to buy her some biscuits, but Neil returned with fruit instead as the fruit shop didn't sell biscuits.
- 9) She resolves to find someone better than Nick who won't comment on her figure.
- 10) He is surprised because he says he has never insulted her figure and that he has always loved her legs.
- 11) He gets revenge by telling Emma that her hair is the problem, not her figure.

TEMA 105 – pág. 217

- 1) She asks him how it went.
- 2) He says he's pretty sure it's in the bag.
- 3) That he told the interviewer to go shove his lousy-good-for-nothing job again.
- 4) Only about four times.
- 5) That he was fluent in German and his reference.
- 6) A job driving around Germans.
- 7) The fact that they said they paid for the lunches.
- 8) He doesn't have a driving license.
- 9) He says it's a mere technicality and that he has driven loads.

- 10) Once.
- 11) To see the glass half empty.
- 12) He thought she would be over the moon that he was finally employed.
- 13) That they will work out that he doesn't have a driving license and that the whole thing will fall through.
- 14) He says she always rains on his parade.
- 15) His mate Rob, who can rustle him up a fake licence.

TEMA 106 – pág. 219

- 1) He says hundreds of people do it.
- 2) They signed a disclaimer.
- 3) He said she needs to focus on doing everything exactly as they were told.
- 4) She says her stomach is in knots.
- 5) He says she can close her eyes when she jumps.
- 6) She says she'll open her eyes when she feels comfortable.
- 7) She's worried about being sick in the air.
- 8) He says she'll be wishing she never worried so much and she'll want to do it again.
- 9) She says Colin's counting is making her more nervous.
- 10) His last word is "jump".

TEMA 107 – pág. 221

- 1) No, it was planned with short notice.
- 2) He doesn't have much time because his fashion show is about to start.
- 3) Yes, he is happy to do the interview because he says Logue magazine has always been very kind to him.
- 4) Yes, he says he is delighted with the new collection.
- 5) He puts sweet on his shoes.
- 6) He would like to tell them not to take life so seriously.
- 7) The journalist says his fun-loving attitude is the reason for his popularity.
- 8) They think that due to his recent argument with Manoyo Blanix, Jimmy Who is trying to outdo him by making his designs more extravagant.
- 9) Not to believe everything the press writes.
- 10) He gives the journalist this advice because he says Manoyo Blanix and himself are still very good friends.
- 11) He wants to rename it Funshu because he says it is the ultimate fun shoe.

TEMA 108 – pág. 223

- 1) The last time he saw her was in sixth-form.

- 2) He had spiky hair.
- 3) He's serving time for armed robbery.
- 4) James is in Galloway prison
- 5) He has to serve five years without the chance of parole.
- 6) He says that Liam reckons he was part of an organized crime gang.
- 7) She'll take part in a trial doing jury service.
- 8) He'd love to do jury service because he'd get out of work for a few weeks and break the routine.
- 9) He asks her to imagine if she got the case of another old schoolmate on trial for a major crime.
- 10) She says she thinks they have to make sure no one from jury service knows anyone involved in the case.

TEMA 109 – pág. 225

- 1) She threatens to call off the wedding.
- 2) She says her juggling clown has cancelled and she hasn't heard anything from the shadow puppetry team.
- 3) She thinks they aren't necessary.
- 4) She says she looked like a giant marshmallow.
- 5) The bottom was too long, the sleeves were too tight and there was a problem with the train.
- 6) She is worried because some haven't RSVP'd yet.
- 7) She has over three months until the wedding.
- 8) She sent them out two weeks ago.
- 9) They took longer than expected due to a special design.
- 10) Gareth is Alicia's fiancé.
- 11) She thinks she will be the most important thing on her wedding day.

TEMA 110 – pág. 227

- 1) It's about the local elections.
- 2) A polling station in downtown New York.
- 3) Ivan Honest Mann.
- 4) He's top of the poll.
- 5) That they look very promising.
- 6) Because he's reached a very broad demographic.
- 7) A staunch supporter has been messing with the cables.
- 8) His family has owned a bakery in the area for generations.
- 9) On 42nd St.
- 10) Until a fortnight ago.
- 11) That a possible presidential candidate served them their bagels.



TEMA 111 – pág. 229

- 1) He wants him to do on-the-spot multiplications.
- 2) He gives him the multiplication of eight times seven.
- 3) The first answer he gives is 48.
- 4) He says Dean's attitude stinks.
- 5) No, he says it's far.
- 6) He says he has to take three buses.
- 7) He says his cat died yesterday.
- 8) He gives them ten subtractions.
- 9) He wants them to write a short description about how they ended up with their answers.
- 10) He sends him to the headmaster.
- 11) He says he's been practising them for three weeks.

TEMA 112 – pág. 231

- 1) He wants to talk about the flat.
- 2) They've been in their flat for two years.
- 3) He says he can't put up with their current living situation anymore.
- 4) He says the atmosphere has been tense.
- 5) Stephen put a fork in it.
- 6) He left the rubbish on the balcony for three days and they got an ant infestation.
- 7) He says he will give him his deposit back by next Wednesday.
- 8) He says he is getting mixed up because Stephen needs to give Harry his deposit back as Harry is the person who should move out.
- 9) He spoke to the landlord two days ago.
- 10) She said she wanted him to move out because of the mystery weekend guests, the parties until 5 a.m. and there was an incident with the neighbour's cat.
- 11) He needs to move out next Wednesday.

TEMA 113 – pág. 233

- 1) The deadline.
- 2) Because she making finishing touches at the last minute.
- 3) She could do them in her sleep at this stage.
- 4) At least 1,000.
- 5) She's a partner.
- 6) Vice President of Sales.
- 7) She was in Barbados with Jean.
- 8) She deleted it.
- 9) Brown Inc.
- 10) Multi-million euro turnover.
- 11) Because they're boring and not one of them is good-looking.

TEMA 114 – pág. 235

- 1) Isabelle asked if she could return her clothes.
- 2) She lacked customer service training.
- 3) The day before.
- 4) Because they were too small.
- 5) They don't do refunds on sale items.
- 6) On the wall behind her and on the receipt.
- 7) She says with this woman on the front line, she'll kill return business.
- 8) The manager.
- 9) That she was afraid of the shop assistant.
- 10) She asks whether she was let go.
- 11) Because the shop assistant had a bird poo on her back and nobody told her about it!

TEMA 115 – pág. 237

- 1) Rather well.
- 2) Because the original colour kept showing through.
- 3) To use a good-sized colour swatch and to know the size of the room.
- 4) He said he would prepare more.
- 5) Rollers and an extension pole.
- 6) No, he doesn't want to paint another room for a long time.
- 7) Telmo didn't mix it properly.
- 8) He said they were oversimplified.
- 9) No. It's streaky in places.
- 10) Masking tape.
- 11) Because there are drips on the skirting boards and window frames.
- 12) Practice makes perfect.

TEMA 116 – pág. 239

- 1) They gave her a discount.
- 2) Yes.
- 3) First prize at the Halloween Fancy Dress Ball.
- 4) He wants something disturbing and disgusting.
- 5) It was a disaster.
- 6) She always had really gory costumes.
- 7) She scared her out of her wits.
- 8) He said it had been really gross.
- 9) He wants to give her the heebie-jeebies.
- 10) He is tired of Georgina scaring them.
- 11) Because she has nerves of steel.
- 12) They go and get the things they will need.

TEMA 117 – pág. 241

- 1) He told her to stop pretending to be sick.
- 2) Mumps, chicken pox and dysentery.
- 3) The pills Jackie pops.
- 4) She said she had been feeling on top of the world.

- 5) They flare up when she eats seafood.
- 6) He said she had insisted on eating oysters.
- 7) She said that she hadn't come out in a rash.
- 8) Six months ago.
- 9) He advises her that she'd better get into bed.
- 10) She wants her to predict what is wrong with her.
- 11) He needs to let the doctor know if Jackie has a temperature.
- 12) He wants Dr Patel to prescribe some happy pills.
- 7) She's going to ask him to file a report.
- 8) He's eager to accompany her because he's been waiting a long time for a good enough reason to rat on Veronica.
- 9) She wants to do the talking to make sure she tells the story exactly how it is.
- 10) He tells her not to tell anyone because people will try and deter you.
- 11) They're going to see him after lunch.

TEMA 118 – pág. 243

- 1) Confidence and sex appeal.
- 2) That she looks like a celebrity.
- 3) A hunky one.
- 4) From time to time.
- 5) She hates to see her sister getting crushed by the constant rejections.
- 6) Twin sisters.
- 7) She was told never to return.
- 8) She says she watches far too much TV.
- 9) On TV on the show Take or No Take.
- 10) She tells her to get into the car.

TEMA 119 – pág. 245

- 1) A budget airline.
- 2) Because they've been queuing for an hour at this stage.
- 3) From having one of her hissy fits.
- 4) He tells her to put it into her carry-on bag because they're only allowed one piece of hand luggage.
- 5) They're able to go home more often.
- 6) She feels like a sheep being herded into a pen.
- 7) She says she's giving her dirty looks.
- 8) He reminds her of the end goal.
- 9) That she can't take it on board.
- 10) She regrets wearing her two coats at once.
- 11) She's going to channel her zen-self.
- 12) Because Isa is a nervous traveller.

TEMA 120 – pág. 247

- 1) He suggests she devises a plan so that she's prepared.
- 2) She fears they could fire her if they don't like what they hear.
- 3) He thinks people will respect her more for speaking out against what was wrong.
- 4) Veronica personally insulted Karen and her family.
- 5) No.
- 6) Leon says Veronica intended to hurt Karen, embarrass her and make her feel bad and inferior.



